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London
Tuesday
28 October 1996

THE TIMES



No. 65,720

MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

TODAY

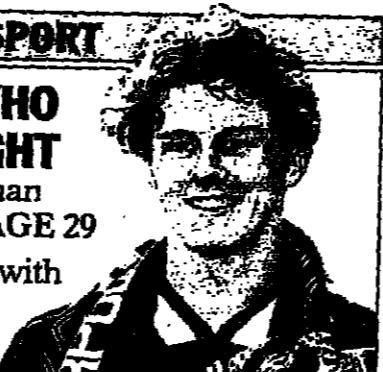
10P

14 PAGES OF SPORT

THE EXPERT WHO
IS ALWAYS RIGHT

For Steve McManaman
father knows best PAGE 29

PLUS What is wrong with
Manchester United?
PAGE 29



READER OFFER

TODAY

10P

FREE RETURN EUROSTAR TICKET TO PARIS OR BRUSSELS

STARTS TODAY: TOKEN, PAGE 11

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

YESTERDAY

ROBBIE RETURNS

Robbie Coltrane on
his latest Cracker
page 19
PLUS:
Matthew Parris
on Monday
page 22

TOMORROW

PLAY TO WIN
£50,000
In our
Interactive Team
Football game
PLUS: The Body
and Mind page

WEDNESDAY

FASHION
Mojo's men
model mean
and moody
Hugo Boss
PLUS: 250
videos to be
won, in
Interface

THURSDAY

FILMS
Geoff Brown
on
Robert De Niro
in 'The Fan'
PLUS:
Dr Thomas
Stuttaford's
medical
briefing

FRIDAY

POP
David Sinclair
on the Spice
Girls' debut
album
PLUS: The
Valerie Grove
interview

SATURDAY

THE REAL
STORY OF
MICHAEL
COLLINS
in the
Magazine

PLUS: WEEKEND CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY 1015
FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND THE DIRECTORY,
OUR NEW GUIDE TO TV, RADIO AND ENTERTAINMENT

Heads want parents to back school discipline

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND DAVID CHARTER

CONTRACTS between parents and schools should spell out that teachers will use all reasonable force to discipline children, head teachers demanded yesterday.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that home-school contracts proposed in the Government's Education Bill had to protect teachers from the increasing number of parents who were too quick to defend their tearaways. Only then would teachers regain the authority they needed to restore order to schools.

In another development, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, was at the centre of deepening controversy over plans to introduce a moral code for schools that fails to promote the institution of marriage. She was pressed to intervene to ensure that emphasis on marriage is made a key component of the new code to be published this week.

However, Mrs Shephard avoided focusing attention solely on marriage as the backbone to stability, emphasising instead the need for a strong and supportive family background.

A heated dispute broke out among teachers and politicians after the publication of a draft code compiled by the National Forum for Values in Education and the Community. Five of the 150 members of the forum refused to back the moral code for schools because it failed to mention marriage in a section on the importance of the family in bringing up children.

Mrs Shephard backed the dissenters, saying that the final version of the code needed to emphasise more prominently the need for family stability. "It is a very delicate area, but I do think that more emphasis might be placed on the

value of the family as a bulwark of society and I shall be saying so."

"I am in no doubt that strong family support and the contribution that strong families make to society are of inestimable value and we must look at ways that we strengthen that side of the report, of this consultation document, before it goes into anything that we might instill into the curriculum," she told GMTV's *Sunday programme*.

However, senior government figures said that Mrs Shephard would not demand that marriage was made the main criterion for family stability, although it should be held up as a desirable aspect of family life. They pointed out that account had to be taken of the fact that only six in ten schoolchildren now live with two married parents. Tory backbenchers pressed Mrs Shephard to go further in

Continued on page 2, col 5

William Rees-Mogg, page 22
Letters, page 23



"I lied"



Beverley Palmer joined an anti-paedophile march in London yesterday with a placard of her daughter Rosie, 3, who was abducted and murdered. Report, page 3

Anti-Taleban bombs fall on Kabul for a second night

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN PESHAWAR

TENSIONS rose in Kabul last night after anti-Taleban aircraft bombed the Afghan capital for the second night running. The raid was met by anti-aircraft fire, shattering the silence of the curfew-bound city.

There were three explosions at around 11pm — two hours after curfew, when streets were empty.

War planes twice dropped bombs on Kabul on Saturday to try to damage the joint civilian-military airport, where the main runway remains intact.

There were no reports of casualties, although shops and houses near a park where the bombs landed were damaged. So desperate is the plight of people in Kabul that a tree uprooted by one blast was immediately salvaged for firewood.

The attacks are designed to stop

Taleban fighter jets bombing enemy positions north of Kabul. Forces of the former government resumed fighting yesterday after a three-day lull to try to capture high points around the city that are heavily defended with tanks, artillery and rocket launchers.

The battle is focused on an area about ten miles from the northern borders of the capital across a wide, open landscape with neither side appearing to make significant advances.

Taleban has reinforced its positions over the past two days with tanks and artillery. The key to what happens next rests with General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern Uzbek warlord who has so far been reluctant to throw his formidable fire power into the siege of Kabul.

Last night, having fought off the challenge to his empire, 400 miles north of Kabul, he was fending off

Taleban attacks on its western flank that were designed to draw him away from the attack on the capital. The general's decision whether to add his firepower to that siege or to concentrate on defending his relatively prosperous and liberal mini-state will determine that alone could quickly drive out Taleban.

Another option is to challenge the Islamic warriors in Herat, a largely Tajik city that resents their rule and is a softer target than Kabul.

Pakistan has quietly retreated from attempts to lead the search for a ceasefire, deferring to the United Nations peace attempt. The UN was furious that Pakistan was undercutting its efforts with parallel media efforts, particularly as they seemed to have a pro-Taleban bias.

Assault on Kabul, page 14
Letters, page 23

Tutsi rebels attack two Zaire towns

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Zairean provincial capital of Bukavu came under sustained artillery and small arms fire yesterday as rebel Tutsi fighters closed in on the town. Goma, the capital of South Kivu, and demand the resignation of President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Michael Quintaglie, of the World Food Programme, said yesterday that Goma airport had been closed,

forcing the UN agency to cancel a flight taking out non-essential personnel. Later in the day a plane did

take off.

On Saturday the UN evacuated

128 foreign aid workers and civilians

from Bukavu and said it was

scraping plans for an airlift of food for about 300,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi who were moving into the area.

They had abandoned 12 camps around Uvira, 60 miles south of Bukavu, following attacks two weeks ago by the Tutsis, who are reported to have taken control of the town of about 20,000 people near the western shore of Lake Tanganyika.

About half a million Rwandan

refugees were reported to be on the

move south and north of Lake Kivu.

Army routed, page 12

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Merton top of Norrrington

Colleges at the top and bottom of the Oxford academic league table backed the publication today, despite continued official attempts to thwart it.

Senior members of Merton, which heads the 1996 Norrrington table of first degree results, and Harris Manchester, which came bottom, said they supported its unofficial publication. Page 4

Queen leaves
for Thailand

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh set off yesterday for a five-day state visit to Thailand to celebrate the golden jubilee of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch. Page 10

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Army routed, page 12

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By Robyn Harris

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TV & RADIO 50, 51

WEATHER 26

CROSSWORDS 26, 52

LETTERS 23

OBITUARIES 25

WILLIAM REES-MOGG 22

ARTS 20, 21

CHESS & BRIDGE 40

COURT & SOCIAL 24

BUSINESS 47-50, 52

MIND AND MATTER 16

LAW REPORT 41

2 HOME NEWS

Britain warns Turkey over heroin trade

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Government has told Turkey to approve tough new laws to combat money-laundering or risk failing in its attempt to join the European Union. The strong plea to Turkey to take urgent action against heroin producers and traffickers, who are responsible for the bulk of the drug entering Britain, has been approved by senior ministers.

Tom Sackville, a junior Home Office minister, delivered the robust

message from the Government at a meeting with Turkish ministers in Istanbul last week. He told them that their lack of commitment in tackling the drugs trade would be one of the criteria on which they were judged for membership of the EU.

He also asked the Turks urgently to legislate to allow their enforcement agencies to work with British customs officers to track drug loads destined for Britain. Turkish heroin accounts for more than 80 per cent of all seizures of the drug in Britain and intelligence officers have identified a

drugs infrastructure in Turkey. While some laboratories have been closed, there remains a large processing capability.

Mr Sackville said last night: "We see drugs as the single largest threat to public order and the welfare of young people. My aim was to convince the Turkish Government that while we recognised them as allies and friends, that their international approval and friendship may in future depend on a demonstrable commitment from them to tackle the drugs trade. I also pointed out that

the impression given to the outside world was that they were less than wholehearted in their fight against the drugs trade."

His exchanges were with Mehmet Agar, an Interior Minister, and Dr Erhan Yulek, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Legislation, but he also offered assistance to Turkey in terms of police and customs training.

The Turks have not set a date for the introduction of the new laws but there is also some pressure internally. Police chiefs in Istanbul are worried about the growth in heroin

abuse among their own young people.

Mr Sackville's two-day trip to Turkey was part of a concerted approach from EU countries to raise the political pressure over its drugs record. It followed action taken last month by the Financial Action Task Force, part of the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which urged international banks to give special attention to any transactions from Turkish domiciled people, companies or financial institutions.

Cook says economy is not ready for EMU

Labour voices doubts on joining single currency

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Labour leadership yesterday gave its strongest indication yet that it is preparing to keep Britain out of a single currency until the next century. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, voiced serious doubts over the prospect of a Labour government entering the first phase of monetary union, suggesting that Britain would not be adequately prepared.

He underlined the difficulties in joining alongside France and Germany in 1993 and reiterated Labour's policy that Britain would not participate if it had a harmful effect.

Senior Tories are still wrestling with whether they should rule out Britain's entry in advance of the general election. Although John Major has said Britain should not preclude it, Euro-sceptic MPs want an early decision to delay entry.

Mr Cook said that Euro-

pean partners would understand Labour's reasons for not joining, "I think there would be a lot of understanding among the governments of Europe — the people who actually had to wrestle with the difficult decisions to join," he told BBC Television's *On the Record*.

The force of his comments, backed by Tony Blair, suggested that the Labour leader has persuaded senior colleagues to take a bolder line. Although Labour made clear yesterday that no decision need be taken before a general election, it underlined that voters would

have "little doubt where we stand". Mr Cook also hinted that the election after next, rather than a referendum, might provide the opportunity for the public to vote on a single currency.

However, Mr Cook sparked unease on Labour's pro-European wing, which has pressed Mr Blair to outflank the Tories by taking a firm line in favour of joining. Calum Mac Donald, MP for the Western Isles, said Britain's entry could be delayed a few months, but certainly not for years. "I think it is positively essential to be part of the first wave," he said.

Mr Cook tried to balance the difficulties of joining the first wave with a firm commitment to eventual membership. "I think there may be very serious problems for Britain staying out of a single currency in the medium term if it goes ahead," Mr Cook said.

The problems would be with inward investment and the fact that sterling, if it was the major European currency outside the Euro, would have to bear the brunt of speculation in the European exchanges. However, he made clear that Britain could survive the problems for a short period "but I don't think you could manage them indefinitely."

"And, if the single currency goes ahead and succeeds, then it is very hard to see how Britain could prosper outside of it. Ultimately you would then have to join."

Blair to give public more say with citizens' juries

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

A LABOUR government would introduce citizens' juries to influence large areas of public policy. The electricity, gas and water industries would be among the first subjects to be examined by the new form of public consultation, which would also scrutinise the role of the industry regulators.

Labour frontbenchers have identified a number of areas where they believe the public should have greater input in decision-making. But it has yet to be decided whether the

"jurors" would be paid for their time or receive only expenses. It could also be necessary to create an independent body to oversee the new process to ensure fair selection of the jury and an unbiased process.

John Prescott, the deputy leader, and Derek Foster, the shadow public services spokesman, have been impressed with results from pilot citizens' juries held primarily to discuss health care. One of the trials covered Huntingdon, the Prime Minister's constituency. Others have been in Walsall and London.

Citizens' juries are common in Germany, where they are called planning cells, and in the United States where they are intended to challenge conventional politicians and their decisions.



Escoffier invented Bombe Nero and Peach Melba

Chefs celebrate a man who shaped the nation's taste

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE gastronomic art of Auguste Escoffier, the great French chef who revolutionised British eating habits, will be celebrated at 120 restaurants around the world today with an international banquet to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth.

More than 60 years after he died, Escoffier is widely regarded as a founding father of French cuisine, but it was while working in London, first as chef at the Savoy Hotel in the 1890s and then at the Carlton Hotel until 1922, that he attained his reputation as "the king of chefs and chef of kings".

Today the Savoy, along with the Ritz and Prêt Catalan in Paris, the Waldorf Astoria in New York, the Hotel Okura in Tokyo and more than 100 other restaurants worldwide, will offer a special six-course Escoffier menu at £65 a head.

This "Dîner d'Epicerie" will feature such substantial offerings as foie gras, turbot in shrimp sauce, saddle of roe deer with gooseberry and horseradish, and mandarin orange mousse.

Escoffier is credited not only with inventing much of the French culinary canon, but also with educating the British palate away from boiled meat and soggy vegetables. He even persuaded Edward, Prince of Wales, to sample frogs' legs.

Although he passed his heyday in the kitchens of English hotels, Escoffier, a

native of the Côte d'Azur, is regarded in France as a towering figure of national culture. He was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur in 1928 in recognition of his work in spreading French cuisine abroad, but France remains notoriously touchy on the subject of Escoffier's British links.

When, in 1938, the Ritz announced it would use his name to market products made by its Nabisco subsidiary, French foodies boiled over. Escoffier must be turning in his grave at such treatment from the land of corned beef, fish and chips and peas in redcurrant jelly," thundered one columnist.

But the French chef was nothing if not versatile. In 1893 Escoffier created the first Peach Melba in honour of the Australian opera singer Nellie Melba who was staying at the newly opened Savoy Hotel and had just brought the house down with her performance in *Lohengrin*.

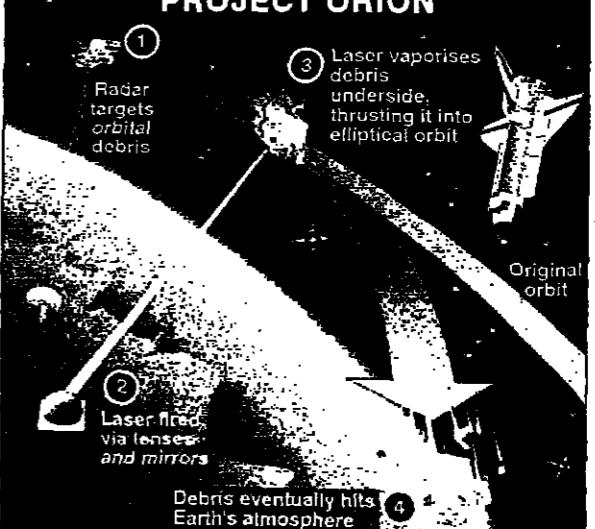
The chef was a master at combining food with flattery, so when Melba came back to the hotel four years later with a stomach upset later with a stomach upset he prescribed slivers of toasted bread — henceforth known as Melba Toast.

Escoffier's well-heeled and well-fed diners vied to heap praise on the maestro. "I am the Emperor of Germany," Kaiser Wilhelm II once gushed, "but you are the emperor of chefs."

The Ford Motor Company has been forced to change a television commercial for a sports car after it triggered an epileptic fit in a viewer. The Independent Television Commission upheld the complaint about the Probe coupe advertisement and ruled that it did not comply with technical guidelines for the use of flashing lights in commercials.

Nasa plans orbital clean-up

PROJECT ORION



Scientists at Nasa are planning to clean up space by "zapping" space junk cluttering up Earth's back yard with a laser gun. Space debris — mostly parts of defunct satellites — circles the planet at speeds of about 22,000mph, posing dangers for space shuttles, the international space station and telecommunications satellites. The impact of even a tiny shard of debris would have devastating consequences. Dr Jonathan Campbell, who heads Project Orion, wants to blast the rubbish out of orbit. The laser would be based in a USAF desert site, and would burn off a portion of the underside and the evaporating stream of material would act as a thruster, nudging particles the size of cricket balls into the atmosphere, where they would burn up.

Mind and Matter, page 18

Heads want parents to aid discipline

Continued from page 1
promoting the need for stable marriages. Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Education Minister, said: "To pretend that one-parent families is a substitute for two parents is not on."

He and other Tory MPs were quick to criticise the code, drafted after being commissioned by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority earlier this year. Julian Brazier, Tory MP for Canterbury, and president of the Conservative Family Campaign, said: "The report is outrageous. In the whole document, I can find only one reference to marriage and that is in a negative context. It is an unchristian

document which makes no commitment to marriage."

When the code is launched on Friday, statements of shared values will be proposed in four broad areas: self, relationships, society and the environment. The draft statement of values in society said: "We value truth, human rights, the law, justice and collective endeavour for the common good of society. In particular, we value families as sources of love, and support for all their members as the basis of a society where people care for others".

The arguments focused political attention again on the issue of morality, which has

drawn the leaders of each of the parties into heated debate during the past week. David Blunkett, Mrs Shepherd's Labour shadow, accused her of hypocrisy over family values. "We favour a stable and loving relationship," he said, "but it comes ill from a Government under whose tutelage the nation has seen a doubling of crime and a tripling of the number of one-parent families."

Mr Hart, for the head teachers, spoke as it was disclosed, yesterday, that a teacher in Luton, Bedfordshire, faced dismissal after she allowed a bullied five-year-old to punish his attackers by slapping their hands with a ruler. In a separate case, a head teacher in Portsmouth, Hampshire, will appear in court tomorrow charged with assault on an 11-year-old girl who broke up a fight the boy was involved in.

Mr Hart said that parents had to shoulder much of the blame for the low regard children had for teachers. "An increasing number of parents are far too willing to take the side of the children against the teacher. They are far too tolerant of their children's misbehaviour," he added.

William Rees-Mogg, page 22
Letters, page 23

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مكالمات من الأرض

'It was an awful ordeal, absolutely terrifying. My wife is completely shattered'

'Masked gang hit peer's wife in raid on country home'

By STEPHEN FARRELL

MASKED robbers burst into the country home of Lord and Lady McGowan and stole £50,000 in jewels and family heirlooms after assaulting the couple and handcuffing them to a radiator, the family said yesterday.

Lady Gillian McGowan, 55, suffered facial bruising and a broken finger in the attack after a three-man gang blindfolded and threatened her husband. They demanded access to the safe after telling the 58-year-old stockbroker that his wife had a gun to her head.

The break-in happened at 7pm on Saturday as Lady Gillian made jam in the kitchen and her husband, Duncan, watched television in the living room of their Georgian mansion, Highway House, in Lower Froyle, Hampshire.

The couple managed to raise the alarm after half an hour when Lady Gillian was able to dislodge a portable telephone and pull it within reach. They had to be cut free by firemen.

Lord McGowan, an Old Etonian and chairman of the City stockbrokers Panmure



The panther brooch stolen in the raid

Gordon, described yesterday how the robbers suddenly appeared half an hour after his son, Harry, had gone home, leaving the couple alone. He said: 'Two men burst through into the living room, where I was watching television. They said, "Get your hands behind your back" and another one told me to kneel down.'

'I said something like, "I can't do both at the same time." They then cut my hands behind my back and pulled me roughly up. They said they had a gun to my wife's head. She was in another room so I

couldn't see her. They said, "Take us to your safe otherwise we will shoot her," so I began to lead the way. When I got to the kitchen they blindfolded me and put a chair across my neck.'

'They said if I moved they would kill me. I thought basically, "That's it, I'm not going to provoke them" and just kept still.'

After the intruders had emptied the safe of his wife's jewellery they led the couple to an upstairs radiator, attached the handcuffs and departed, saying they would call the police in two minutes. When no one arrived Lady Gillian, daughter of the 7th Earl of Cottenham, used her free hand to drag the portable telephone within reach and called the police.

Her husband said: 'We were obviously very shaken. It is one of those things that you read about but you never believe is going to happen to you. My first reaction was one of total shock. I just couldn't believe what was happening. They were constantly swearing and threatening me. Every third word was a swear word.'

'It was an awful ordeal, absolutely terrifying. My wife is completely shattered. Most of the jewellery stolen was handed down to her. It just seems to be an escalation of violence in modern society. But I am not going to change my life as a result. I'm going to work tomorrow as normal.'

Lord McGowan added: 'We have had a hell of a 24 hours. Our children are spending the day with us and we want to try to get back to normality. We have been very busy talking to the police in the hope that they can catch these people.'

Lady Gillian was still visibly shaking from the ordeal and had bruising to her lips and cheeks. She said: 'I have been bashed about the head and I have a broken finger. I have seen the doctor, but I am still quite shaken.'

She was particularly concerned that a £10,000 dia-



Lord and Lady McGowan recovering yesterday after their ordeal. She suffered bruising and a broken finger

mond, sapphire and gold panther brooch, a copy of one worn by the Duchess of Windsor, was stolen.

Their son, Harry, 25, a stockbroker, said: 'My mother and father were terrified. They feared for their lives because they believed the men had a gun.'

His sisters, Annabel, 31, an interior designer, and Emma, 33, a mother of two, returned to the family home to offer support and comfort to their

parents. Mr McGowan said: 'Given the circumstances my parents are coping amazingly well. Clearly they have been shaken by this, but we are doing our best to get back to normal. We sat down to a Sunday roast and discussed the ordeal.'

A neighbour, Richard Wilde, 32, said: 'I arrived home at 7pm and didn't see anything suspicious. The only odd thing was a white van that I noticed outside my house

around lunchtime, but it drove off almost straight away. Everyone here keeps themselves to themselves.'

Highway House is draped in ivy and is surrounded by a 10ft stone wall. The property has acres of lawns and woodland and a stable block to one side. A half-mile gravel drive leads to the front entrance and a maze of paths leads through the grounds.

Lord McGowan, a respected City deal-maker, inherited

the baronetcy in 1966 on the death of his father, the second baron. The title was first granted in 1937 to his grandfather, a former Glasgow office boy who rose to become chairman of ICI. The couple divide their time between their home in Chelsea and Highway House.

A police spokesman confirmed that the couple saw no weapon during the incident but appealed for sightings of the intruders.

Navy right to send Wrens to sea, says admiral

By MICHAEL EVANS

DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE admiral who was the main architect of the Wrens-at-sea policy, which is under fire after a series of sex allegations, insisted yesterday that mixed crews were right for the Royal Navy.

Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff from 1989 to 1993 when the policy was adopted, dismissed reports that ministers had forced the Navy against its will to accept women at sea. 'The policy had the full support of the Navy Board and we were worried at one point about whether we would be able to persuade ministers to approve the scheme,' Sir Julian said.

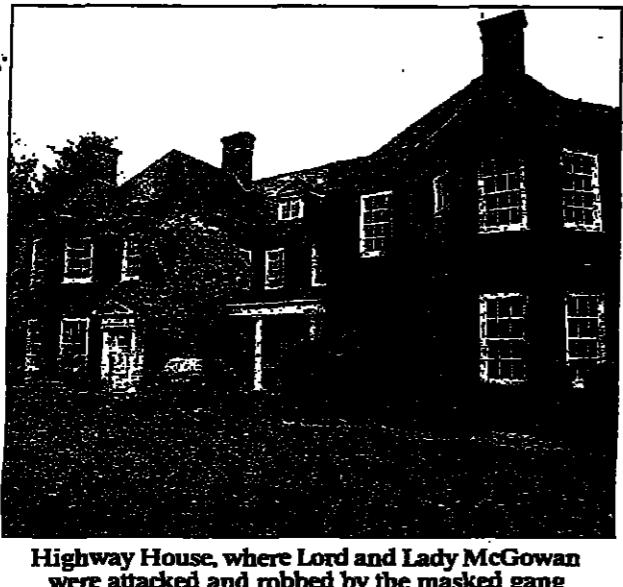
He said he had no regrets about sending women to sea and believed that breaches of the 'no-touching rule' were unfortunate but 'human nature'. The policy was given national prominence last week after allegations made by Claire McGarry, a former midshipman who served on HMS *Brazen*, at a sex discrimination hearing, and separate accounts by two unnamed crew members from HMS *Northumberland*.

At the end of the tribunal Commander Paul Collins, former commanding officer of HMS *Brazen*, was absolved of allegations that he tried to grope and kiss Miss McGarry, who lost her claim for unfair dismissal.

As the Royal Navy announced an increase in the number of women serving at sea — 76 officers and 589 ratings — Sir Julian dismissed suggestions that Tom King, then Defence Secretary, and Sir Archie Hamilton, then Armed Forces Minister, had engineered the policy for political reasons.

He said a study group recommended that women should serve at sea but that they be restricted to a small number of ships. Sir Julian said: 'The Ministry of Defence recommended to the Navy Board that we should go further and the board agreed.'

Conduct unbecoming, page 17



Victims' mothers lead protest rally

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE mothers of four children killed by sex attackers yesterday led a march to demand strict controls on paedophiles.

June Wootton, whose seven-year-old daughter Donna Gillbanks was killed by an uncle in 1977, raised a loud cheer from the 200 demonstrators when she called for a referendum on capital punishment. Her daughter's killer could be released from prison in two years because the judge recommended that he serve a minimum 20 years of his life sentence.

'I made a promise to Donna that I would fight, even if it is to my dying day, to keep that scumbag bars.' Ms Wootton said: 'There will never be any parole for me. I will suffer until the day I die and so should he.'

The People Power campaign has collected 50,000 names on

Photograph, page 1

Couple killed by tree falling on car

By DES BURKINSHAW

A HUSBAND and wife were crushed to death yesterday when a tree was blown onto their car by high winds. A three-year-old boy, thought to have been their son, was strapped into a child seat in the back and escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

On the march were Beverley Palmer, whose daughter Rosie, 3, was murdered by a man who lived close by, and Brenda Payne, whose daughter Marie, 4, was killed 13 years ago. The boxer Frank Bruno joined the protesters, whose two-mile march took them past Parliament.

The accident happened at 1.30pm as a severe weather warning was issued in west Yorkshire because of winds of up to 60mph. Passers-by tried to free the couple, who had been crushed in their Ford Escort by a 30ft-long section of tree trunk.

Stuart Smith, a sub-officer

at Fairweather Green fire station, said the tree trunk had fallen on the front end of the car, pinning the victims to their seats. 'The tree had grown in two parts from the base and one of the trunks had snapped in a violent crosswind,' he said.

'It had caught a lamp post on the way and that was in danger of falling as well. We had to cut the tree into sections, using a chain-saw and air bags, to lift it off the car. There was nothing that could be done for the people in the front.'

The driver and two passengers in a Jaguar XJ6 were injured yesterday when the car plunged 20ft off a flyover on to a pedestrianised shopping area in Edgbaston, Birmingham. Police said the area was deserted and no-one else was hurt.

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but charge you through the nose

for the privilege. Some penalise

you even if you want to increase

your payments. It's a bit like a bank

advertising free banking and then charging

you if a cheque bounces.

Such advertising is just to lure you in.

For years the pension industry has got away with not telling you how much of your money they cream off in charges.

Today we have the Financial Services Act which forces them to tell you. But there is a loophole. The company is entitled to assume that you will stick rigidly to your initial

arrangements. If you alter them, you get nailed with charges.

Virgin Direct refuses to do this. Our personal pension is ultra-flexible. You can stop, start, increase or decrease the amount you save and you won't have to pay a penalty for doing so.

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No wonder the industry is in an uproar. Just imagine — a pension company that treats you as if it's your money and your life.

Whatever next?

If you'd like to know more about the Virgin Personal Pension, do give us a call. Tell us how much you want to tuck away each month. We'll send you a personalised information pack that will tell you everything you

need to know.

The Virgin Personal Pension is a flexible product that allows you to change your pension plan as your circumstances change.

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4 HOME NEWS

Winners and losers alike back Oxford league table.

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

COLLEGES at the top and bottom of the Oxford academic league table backed its publication today, despite continued official attempts to thwart it.

Senior members of Merton, which heads the 1996 Norrington table of first degree results, and Harris Manchester, which came bottom, said they supported its unofficial publication. For the fourth year running the table has been compiled for *The Times* by a resourceful student circumventing university opposition. It shows the relative performance of students in their final examinations this summer at the 30 Oxford colleges, making it arguably the most competitive league in the world.

The university's three oldest colleges topped the 1996 table. Merton, founded in 1264, scored the second highest total on record, followed by Balliol, founded between 1263-68, and University College, which dates from 1249. The table was invented by Sir Arthur Norrington, a former president of Trinity College, in a letter to *The Times* in 1962.

Philip Waller, senior tutor at Merton, put his students' success down to the happy



Students at Merton yesterday. The college heads the 1996 Norrington Table

atmosphere at the college. He said: "Undergraduates are well-accommodated, the amenities are good and the tutors are both serious and dedicated to teaching, but also humane. It is nice to have proof we don't damage our students here."

Professor John Albery, Master of University College, said: "We as a college are all in

favour of the Norrington table. The colleges should be proud of their achievements in this way. I am very much in favour of the college doing well on the river, on the rugby field and academically."

The table is notorious for sharp fluctuations from year to year among the middle-ranking colleges because of the difference a few students can make to the final total. This year was no exception.

The main improvers were Hertford, up 19 places to sixth, and Queen's, from eighteenth to eighth. Magdalen, with half the number of first-class degrees compared to last year, recorded the biggest drop, from second to fifteenth. Harris

Manchester, the university's newest college, stayed at the foot of the table.

Gillian Carey, senior tutor at Harris Manchester, said: "We are too small to be a proper sample. Secondly, we don't have any scientists and there are many more firsts given in the sciences than in arts subjects."

Dons are divided on whether official opposition to publication should continue when the five-year exercise to remove college affiliations from pass lists is reviewed later this academic year. Mrs Carey added: "In a place where freedom of information ought to be a priority, I personally don't like the sense that something is being suppressed. I would vote in favour of freedom of information."

A university spokesman said: "What really matters is whether different subjects are taught well in different colleges because college A may come top of the table and be very poor on subject X, while the college on the bottom might be brilliant at subject X." He added: "The university has no strong feeling for or against this table but it is concerned about possible distortions through the statistics."

The colleges are ranked on

THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

NORRINGTON TABLE 1996

| College | Score % | Points | Candidates | Women % | Men % | Firsts | 2:1s | 2:2s | 3s Passes |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|------------|---------|-------|--------|------|------|-----------|
| 1 (5) Merton | 70.70 | 251 | 71 | 66.38 | 72.65 | 23 | 40 | 8 | 0 |
| 2 (3) Balliol | 68.00 | 391 | 115 | 62.44 | 71.09 | 22 | 32 | 16 | 1 |
| 3 (9) University | 67.63 | 399 | 118 | 65.46 | 68.77 | 20 | 34 | 19 | 1 |
| 4 (8) St John's | 67.31 | 350 | 104 | 65.23 | 67.71 | 20 | 34 | 19 | 0 |
| 5 (1) Corpus Christi | 66.97 | 221 | 66 | 63.45 | 69.73 | 17 | 38 | 11 | 0 |
| 6 (25) Hertford | 66.91 | 368 | 110 | 67.48 | 66.56 | 23 | 64 | 15 | 1 |
| 7 (12) Christ Church | 66.78 | 394 | 118 | 62.49 | 68.89 | 33 | 60 | 24 | 1 |
| 8 (18) Exeter | 66.51 | 265 | 85 | 64.38 | 67.78 | 22 | 50 | 10 | 3 |
| 9 (6) Jesus | 66.23 | 255 | 77 | 62.73 | 68.88 | 19 | 44 | 14 | 0 |
| 10 (4) Wadham | 65.93 | 267 | 81 | 61.40 | 71.05 | 19 | 48 | 16 | 2 |
| 11 (17) Lincoln | 65.29 | 371 | 117 | 60.70 | 66.00 | 23 | 74 | 16 | 2 |
| 12 (7) New College | 62.93 | 365 | 116 | 57.78 | 66.15 | 16 | 46 | 15 | 2 |
| 13 (16) Thomas | 62.50 | 239 | 76 | 67.06 | 59.69 | 19 | 33 | 21 | 3 |
| 14 (24) Magdalen | 62.40 | 314 | 100 | 56.88 | 65.59 | 16 | 68 | 15 | 0 |
| 15 (28) Brasenose | 62.40 | 308 | 99 | 59.13 | 63.42 | 19 | 58 | 20 | 1 |
| 16 (24) St Catherine's | 61.88 | 395 | 128 | 58.45 | 63.10 | 24 | 62 | 25 | 4 |
| 17 (20) Keble | 61.77 | 420 | 136 | 60.00 | 62.68 | 24 | 63 | 22 | 7 |
| 18 (22) St Peter's | 60.64 | 285 | 94 | 52.26 | 59.64 | 17 | 50 | 24 | 3 |
| 19 (15) Oriel | 60.53 | 230 | 76 | 62.00 | 59.57 | 10 | 51 | 13 | 1 |
| 20 (18) Pembroke | 60.21 | 282 | 97 | 60.00 | 61.36 | 14 | 58 | 23 | 2 |
| 21 (18) Lady Margaret Hall | 60.17 | 346 | 115 | 64.15 | 66.72 | 16 | 70 | 27 | 2 |
| 22 (23) St Anne's | 60.16 | 376 | 125 | 58.55 | 61.43 | 18 | 78 | 24 | 4 |
| 23 (20) St Edmund Hall | 60.00 | 227 | 108 | 58.38 | 60.26 | 16 | 64 | 27 | 2 |
| 24 (21) Merton | 60.00 | 195 | 62 | 55.56 | 61.82 | 10 | 38 | 9 | 4 |
| 25 (21) Worcester | 57.82 | 292 | 101 | 54.44 | 59.69 | 11 | 82 | 24 | 3 |
| 26 (21) St Hugh's | 56.88 | 310 | 103 | 54.50 | 58.26 | 11 | 85 | 29 | 2 |
| 27 (28) St Hilda's | 56.08 | 300 | 107 | 56.08 | none | 9 | 33 | 31 | 4 |
| 28 (29) Somerville | 55.55 | 303 | 108 | 55.95 | none | 8 | 85 | 31 | 3 |
| 30 (30) Harris Manchester | 50.83 | 61 | 24 | 50.77 | 50.91 | 0 | 16 | 5 | 3 |

1995 position shown in brackets

their percentage of the maximum points possible, with five points awarded for a first-class degree, three for an upper second, two for a lower second, one for a third and nothing for a pass degree.

Men performed best academically at Merton (72.65 per cent), Balliol (71.08) and Jesus (71.05) and least well at

Manchester (50.91), Lady Margaret Hall (56.72) and St Hilda's (56.26). Women's grades were highest at Hertford (67.39), New College (60.06) and Trinity (60.92), and lowest at Harris Manchester (50.44) and Queen's (69.47). At the bottom of the sciences table were Mansfield (53.85), Brasenose (55.43) and St Hilda's (55.55).

The top colleges for arts were Merton (71.02), Exeter

(70.44) and Hertford (68.22). Bottom were Manchester (50.91), Lady Margaret Hall (56.72) and St Hilda's (56.26).

The top colleges for sciences were St John's (70.45), Merton (70.00) and Queen's (69.47). At the bottom of the sciences table were Mansfield (53.85), Brasenose (55.43) and St Hilda's (55.55).

Blair school gives China a lesson in private education

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE public school where the Labour leader Tony Blair was educated has become a model for China's "new wave" in education. Fettes College in Edinburgh has begun an exchange with the first fee-paying school in that country.

The unlikely partners believe they have a lot to learn from each other, particularly in their differing approaches to mathematics and English. Five pupils aged 14 to 17 and a language teacher from Ying Hao (China Heroes) School in Guangdong Province, near Hong Kong, start lessons at the Scottish school today.

Over two terms they will be given a taste of Britain's distinctive brand of privileged education. Patrick Hu, a language teacher, is particularly interested in discovering whether the more informal method of teaching English at Fettes will be of benefit to pupils at Ying Hao. During his stay he will teach Chinese to teachers and pupils, making Fettes the first Scottish school to offer the subject.

In return Fettes will study China's old-fashioned approach to teaching mathematics, which has produced outstanding results, according to Malcolm Thyne, Headmaster of Fettes. Chinese pupils study mathematics in classes

of more than 40, double the teacher ratio, sitting in rows facing the teacher. They learn strictly by rote, commit sums to memory and use the abacus rather than a calculator.

Mr Thyne said: "They certainly have more in common with old-fashioned methods, once the cornerstone of a sound grounding in everyday mathematics, than the progressive style now predominant in Britain. I was taught maths by those old-fashioned methods. It gave my generation a confidence that now seems to be lacking."

Ying Hao was set up by a businessman three years ago to cater for China's emerging wealthy classes who prospered under economic liberalisation. The 3,000-pupil school is unashamedly modelled on fee-paying schools in Britain. Parents pay a fee of up to £25,000 per child, which is handed back by the State when the child leaves.

Links with Fettes were forged last November when six Chinese officials visited Britain to observe administration and teaching in public schools. Next Easter two Fettes teachers, in mathematics and physics, will visit Ying Hao and in October two Fettes pupils will join the school for a term.

Moral decision to watch with mother

MEDICAL BRIEFING

If a parent is suspected of injuring a child, is it morally legitimate to admit the suspected victim to hospital so that the parent may be surreptitiously watched with cameras if necessary, to monitor their behaviour?

It is reported that the North Staffordshire Hospital has, by using various surveillance devices, detected 32 cases in which mothers could be shown to have injured their children in such a way that they had been the cause of the symptoms which necessitated the admission to hospital.

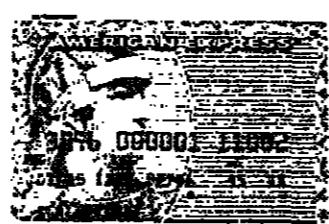
In the perfect world, a child at risk of injury would have been taken into care, and the mother given psychiatric treatment before the victim needed hospital treatment. Doctors cannot, however, remove a child, with all the long-term harm that this could cause, on grounds of suspicion alone.

Most family doctors and paediatricians would need to be convinced beyond reasonable doubt that the child's long-term safety make many doctors think that undercover surveillance is worthwhile. So repulsive, however, is the thought of spying — in the home or the ward — that judges have been known to disallow this evidence in custody battles.

Treatment is difficult. Every effort has to be made to stop further injury. If this involves spying without immediate risk thoughts of the child's long-term safety make many doctors think that undercover surveillance is worthwhile. So repulsive, however, is the thought of spying — in the home or the ward — that judges have been known to disallow this evidence in custody battles.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

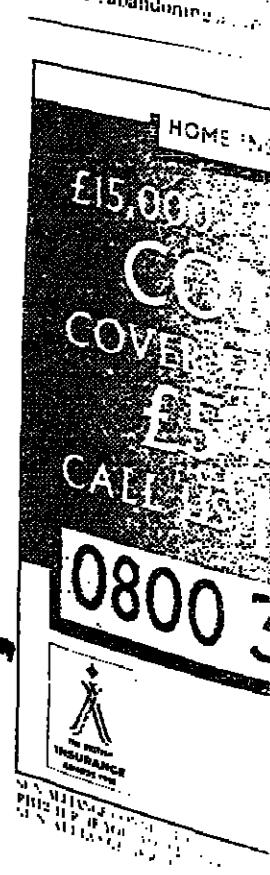
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REV2



Charity Commission threatens tax-free status over burial grounds and says: You are not a religion

Pagans demand civil rites over their way of death

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

PAGANS are fighting a threat to strip their most prominent trust of charitable status. The Pagan Hospice and Funeral Trust is alleged to have promoted ancient beliefs, and proposed pagan-only burial grounds, instead of simply consoling the dying and bereaved.

Priestesses, witches and druids complain that their civil liberties are being breached. They regard themselves as the oldest religious group in the British Isles, and say it is time that Britain had a law to prevent religious discrimination.

The trust is called on by hospitals when dying patients say they are pagans and want to see a priestess or witch. It has a team of "soul midwives" who provide spiritual comfort for the terminally ill, anoint their bodies with essential oils when they die, and perform funeral services.

As well as pagans, many people with "green" principles like to consult the trust so they can have environmentally friendly funerals. Pagans ar-



gued for ten years before the Charity Commission agreed to let their trust become a charity in July last year. They are deeply suspicious that the commission has so quickly threatened to withdraw that status, removing their tax privileges and undermining their credibility.

"They can do this, safe in the knowledge that our only appeal against the decision is to the High Court for what amounts to a judicial review and that the trust is very unlikely to be able to afford the cost," said Clare Prout, the trust's co-ordinator. "It stinks."

The trust was granted chari-

paganism itself being charitable; it is not a religion, as that has been defined by the courts for charitable purposes, nor is it a subject of education in a sense which is charitable by law."

She said the essential requirements of religion were "belief in and public worship of a Deity with commensurate public benefit. Paganism is not recognised as failing with these criteria."

Buying burial grounds was only charitable if they were for the community at large, rather than for pagans. "Paganism itself is not a sufficiently definite linguistically term," she argued. "It has many meanings, which are not consistent with each other."

The pagans have responded aggressively to what they see as slurs. Rufus Maychild, a trustee, pointed out that paganism had its deities, Hinduism, which is polytheistic, and Buddhism, which only recognises the divine within oneself.

Pamela Holt, of the Charity Commission, wrote to the pagans in April. She said: "We must say that there can be no question of the promotion of



Annie Wildwood conducts baby-naming and burial ceremonies. She hopes to be reincarnated as a wild horse

proven that Christianity has been the cause of hideous warfare, of genocide, of the suspension of human rights," argued Mr Maychild.

"Catholicism could be con-

structed to rely on feelings of fear and guilt to motivate believers. Some Islamic groups are openly anti-Semitic and current Israeli treatment of Palestinians would hardly be considered 'for the public benefit'.

paganism — including the trust's logo — reflect a belief in reincarnation. One priestess, Annie Wildwood (see below) said that she hoped to return as a wild horse.

Many of the symbols of

Christians are still following our old lores, says priestess

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

ANNIE WILDWOOD, a priestess, says many customs in Britain can be traced back to the ancient pagans. "The Christian Church took over all the major pagan feast days — a very sensible thing to do if you want to convert a country."

The choice of a date to mark Christ's birthday at Christmas, she insists, was influenced by the ancient Roman celebration of the birth of the sun on December 21.

Halloween dates back to pagans who believed the old year ended around late October. "The reason you get the idea of ghosts and ghouls and spooks is that the Celts believed the veil between the worlds was very thin or non-existent that night. You would call on your ancestors and leave offerings for them."

Mummers would go around the village, often disguised as animals. Homes they visited would give them food to ensure good luck for the rest of the year. May Day was the beginning of the Celtic light half of the year when young people would go into the fields and have sex to confer fertility on the land.

The numbers 13 and 3, still considered powerful bringers of luck or doom today, were significant to the Celts.

The idea of throwing a penny into a well and making a wish is pagan. The custom of carrying a bride over the threshold recalls the old marriage ceremony, when a couple would have to jump out of a sacred circle, over a stone. It was considered bad luck if the woman stumbled.

Ms Wildwood, 37, who lives in a two-up, two-down house in Bristol, describes herself as a self-employed priestess. "As far as the tax people are concerned I'm just down as a therapist."

After feeling close to nature in her teens, she read about paganism and became an active follower in her late twenties, abandoning a career

in carpentry. As a "soul midwife" she has prepared bodies and conducted funeral ceremonies. She said: "For a woodland burial, you don't need a hearse and an undertaker."

"If a person dies at home, the body, as long as it is covered, can be transported in the back of an estate car. Relatives can dig the grave, each throw in a sprig of evergreen to show that life follows death, plant a tree and use blessed springwater to water it."

Ms Wildwood would like her dead body to be rubbed with red ochre to represent the life force. Some pagans want to be buried in the foetal position, like Neolithic man, signifying continuing life.

She worships a deity, The Goddess, who is in all nature and is sometimes represented with a male consort, the Horned God, who is said to be the fertilising aspect of life.

Ms Wildwood officiated at a naming-ceremony for a pagan baby. Four people gave gifts representing the elements: crystal (earth), wind chimes (air), a candle (fire) and a card to adopt a swan at a bird sanctuary (water).

Pagans have long suffered a poor public image which they blame on Christian propaganda, but things are getting better.

"Up until a few years ago, it was the usual 'Witch eats baby under oak tree at full moon' type of thing. It has improved," she said. The Home Office is now said to accept paganism as a religion for prison inmates. Hospitals are appointing pagan chaplains.

Pagans in Milton Keynes have been given land to worship outdoors in public and private. Druids hold equinox and solstice celebrations on Parliament Hill in northwest London. The National Trust at Avebury recognises the right of pagans to worship at stone circles.

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THE VISCOUNT
estate of Sir Alexander
valued at £10 million,
to be placed in a
trust for the benefit
of his wife and two
children and as a
trust fund for the
two of his
He 25-year-old
Chelsea footballer
Peter Michael
chief executive
London will be
lateral trip to Asia
Tuesday to Friday
during their
who faces financial
company debts of
£1 billion and a
local group
well-being.

They have
plans to open
Harding's in
the days
raise up to
redevelopment
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hotels and
facilities.
This is the

Form
takes
save m

AS THE country
honour the dead
brance Saturday
time, a former Royal
is fighting to save
war memorial in
thieves and vandals
Ian Davidson, 60, of
leaving London
memorials that
desecration, he said.
For the last 10 years
people have been
remembering and
of the year, he said.
just not looking after
memorials properly.

He set up the Free
War Memorials Trust
that the Heroes
Aldershot, Hampshire,
been vandalised, defaced
graffiti and obscene
words. In one
garden of remembrance
was chucked out and
pavements were
broken.

Mr Davidson said
memorial at the main
base was in such a bad
time had come to bring
tears prepared to protect
the memorial.
funds raised from a
collection.

Fifty years since
the Second World War
memorials that have
been destroyed.

DIAMON
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There are more than 10 million people in the UK who suffer from arthritis, which shortens their working lives and causes untold suffering.

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Will avoids inheritance tax of up to £80m

Harding placed estate in trust for his children

BY JASON NISSE

THE vast majority of the estate of Matthew Harding, valued at over £200 million, is to be placed in a discretionary trust for the benefit of his five children and administered by two of his closest friends.

His 25 per cent stake in Chelsea will be tendered by Peter Middleton, the former chief executive of Lloyds of London, who turned down the fateful trip to Bolton last Tuesday in which Mr Harding died, and by John Gunn, who faces disqualification as a company director over the £1 billion collapse of the financial group British & Commonwealth Holdings.

They will push through plans, which 42-year-old Mr Harding was negotiating in the days before his death, to raise up to £80 million to redevelop large parts of Chelsea's stadium at Stamford Bridge, bringing in offices, a hotel and new leisure facilities.

This could mean raising up

to £20 million on the stock market, bringing in new investors. The billionaire George Soros is understood to be one of the interested parties.

Mr Middleton, who now heads the London arm of the American bank Salomon Brothers, is also expected to press to take over from Ken Bates as chairman of Chelsea.

The trust was set up under the terms of a will written a few months before the death of Mr Harding, who was vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club. It will hold his shares in Chelsea, as well as the freehold of Stamford Bridge, and his 33 per cent stake in the insurance group Benfield, for the benefit of his children.

It will be administered by his trustees, who include his financial advisor, Maggie Nugent, and a close friend, Mark Killick. Mr Harding's home in Ditchling, East Sussex, will be given to his wife, Ruth. His girlfriend, Vicki Jaramillo, will get his



Matthew Harding's estate is worth about £200m

home in southwest London.

The Government will miss out on as much as £80 million of inheritance tax on the estate, as it was almost entirely made up of shares in two companies. Chelsea Village, the holding company of the Premiership football club, and Benfield, which he chaired. Under changes in the

tax laws introduced by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, no inheritance tax is payable on shares in private companies. The Inland Revenue has said this includes shares such as those in Chelsea Village, which are traded on the Alternative Investment Market. Mr Harding's shares in Chelsea are worth nearly £20 million and estimates of the value of his 33 per cent holding in Benfield are as high as £200 million.

Mrs Harding will not face a tax bill on her inheritance, but the bequest to Miss Jaramillo may lead to her being faced with a tax bill running into hundreds of thousands of pounds. As she has no fortune of her own, this means that she may have to sell the home to meet the bill.

Details of Mr Harding's will and funeral arrangements are expected to be released this week. Reports that he is to be cremated have not been confirmed.

Supporters' homage, page 30



God's gift: Mr Sutton handing out £5 notes to parishioners yesterday

Vicar puts his money on talents of faithful

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A VICAR yesterday gave £5 notes to his congregation with the command: "Go forth and make it multiply." The Rev Peter Sutton of St Faith's in Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, hopes his generosity will help to raise £70,000 for a new parish centre.

Taking his inspiration from Jesus's parable of the talents in Matthew 25, he offered the money to 130 worshippers. Sixty parishioners, aged 11 to 77, took up his offer and signed a form pledging to return £5 or more after six months.

By the end of yesterday's service one enterprising boy had taken orders worth £80 for a car-washing service after announcing that he would invest his £5 in a bucket and sponge.

Mr Sutton said: "We have jam makers, bun makers, and a business studies lecturer who is going to sell fudge in his staff room. One person is going to spend the money on stamps and send begging letters to firms."

Former marine takes up fight to save memorials

BY IAN MURRAY

AS THE country prepares to honour the dead on Remembrance Sunday in two weeks' time, a former Royal Marine is fighting to save Britain's war memorials from vandals, thieves and neglect.

Ian Davidson, who is collecting evidence of monuments that have been desecrated or abandoned, said: "For one day a year people bow their heads in remembrance and for the rest of the year they forget. We are just not looking after these memorials properly."

He set up the Friends of War Memorials after learning that the Heroes' Shrine in Aldershot, Hampshire, had been vandalised, daubed with graffiti and chiselled with obscene words. The surrounding garden of remembrance was choked with weeds, its pavements cracked and broken.

Mr Davidson felt that if the memorial at the main Army base was in such a state, the time had come to find volunteers prepared to repair and protect the monuments, with funds raised from an annual collection.

Fifty years after the end of the Second World War, many memorials have started to

disintegrate. Repairs are a low priority to councils struggling to balance budgets and the dilapidated state of many monuments make them easy targets for thieves and vandals.

The theft of a 6ft 9in bronze statue from the memorial at Stansted, Kent, two weeks ago was no more than typical of what was happening. A gang tied a tow rope around the statue's legs, attached it to a van and drove off. Melted down, the bronze will fetch a good scrap price.

In Stoke-on-Trent thieves stole the brass plaque from one memorial, presumably for scrap. Other monuments are broken up for their statuary, with carved stone or cast bronze figures fetching a good price from people looking for quality garden ornaments. Figures stolen this year include a stone lion from a memorial in Suffolk, two bronze angels from Warwickshire and a 'shield of honour' from a park near Halifax, west Yorkshire.

Thefts and vandalism often go unnoticed because so many monuments are in poor condition.

Leading article, page 23

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Irish courts will hear nuclear closure plea

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE British nuclear industry is under threat from four Irish citizens determined to shut the Thorpe nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria.

The four, from Dundalk, Co Louth, claim that Thorpe is endangering Irish lives. They are seeking an injunction from the Irish courts to close the plant. The case would set a precedent in international and European law.

The four argue that the plant, owned by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) contravenes the Euratom treaty and a 1985 European Commission directive requiring that an environmental impact assessment be carried out before the disposal of radioactive waste. They also claim that, under European law, BNFL is answerable to the Irish people and the Irish courts.

Mary Kavanagh, an art teacher and spokeswoman for the four, said: "We are 112 miles from Sellafield, closer than most people in England, and we are supposed to live with the dangers without a say. People here are afraid of

the emissions and soon there will be traffic of waste up and down the Irish Sea. That will put us even more at risk."

The Thorpe plant recycles uranium and plutonium for countries such as Japan. The highly radioactive waste is stored on-site and low-grade radioactive matter is dumped seven miles from the plant.

In 1994 Ms Kavanagh and her colleagues Ollian Herr, director of a company that makes parts for sewage plants; Constance Dear, an artist; and Mark Dear, an organic vegetable grower, decided to challenge BNFL. They have risked their houses and jobs to fight the company, which last year achieved a £1.5 billion turnover with profits of £233 million.

"We are not environmental cranks on a mission," Ms Kavanagh said. "I just personally do not want to wait another 20 years to be told that emissions coming out of Sellafield in 1996 were harmful. I want it to be found out now and in Ireland." She became involved when a

young friend from Dundalk died suddenly from leukaemia.

Last week the four won the right to sue BNFL in Ireland. The company tried to stop the case on the basis that the issues had been dealt with by the High Court in London. In April 1994 Lancashire County Council and Greenpeace lost their legal battle to stop Thorpe going ahead.

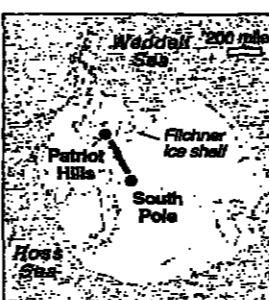
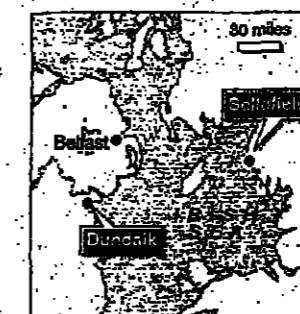
But the five judges of the Irish Supreme Court said the case should be heard. It is not expected to come to court until next year. BNFL said it was confident because it was not endangering Irish people or anybody else. The four have the support of some interna-

tional nuclear scientists and they will use medical research of the 43,000 people living in Dundalk.

Doctors in Dundalk have discovered unusually high levels of Down's syndrome among mothers who were children at the time of the Windscale fire in 1957. The average Irish rate of Down's syndrome babies is one in every 2,000. In Dundalk in the 1960s, 29 out of 120 babies born to women in secondary school, when Windscale caught fire, had Down's syndrome. In the 1980s the miscarriage rate in Dundalk was twice the Irish average.

Mary Grehan, a Dundalk GP, is to publish research that shows unusual blood and liver results among people living in and around the town. Doctors tested 1,014 healthy patients for B12, a vitamin in red meat known to be adversely affected by radiation. They found unusually low levels.

Dr Grehan said: "There is something that is causing these problems and you would find it hard to convince people around here that it was not Sellafield."



Scott of Rainham sets off to find £1m Pole

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A FORMER leukaemia patient leaves for Antarctica today to start a 750-mile trek to the South Pole in the footsteps of his namesake, Captain Robert Falcon Scott. Lloyd Scott, a former professional footballer and firefighter, hopes to reach his goal on Christmas Day in an attempt to raise £1 million for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

The trust saved his life in 1989 by finding him a bone-marrow donor. He has run seven London Marathons, the high-altitude Everest Marathon and raced across the Sahara Desert to raise money for the charity.

Mr Scott, 35, will set off today for Punta Arenas in southern Chile to join his companions, Clive Johnson and "Punch" Wilson. There they will make final preparations for the Scott II expedition. Captain Scott's wife, Kathleen, also died from leukaemia.

He would have flown to Chile several days ago but put off his departure in order to attend the wedding in Hampshire of his close friend Andrew Burgess, 32, the stranger who saved his life by donating bone marrow seven years ago.

The expedition will fly on to Patriot Hills, in Antarctica, which will serve as its forward base before the journey to Hercules Inlet at the edge of the Antarctic land mass where the three men will begin their challenge on the ice in early November.

The team expects to take up to 60 days to haul sledges loaded with supplies weighing over 300lb each, without

Prison Service director calls for weekend jails

THE head of the Prison Service yesterday proposed "timeshare" jails, where convicts would be released during the week to go to work but would be locked up at weekends.

Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, has put forward the idea as an attempt to solve overcrowding. "I think weekend prisons are well worth examining," Mr Tilt said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*.

Chris Scott, chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, described the plan as "an attractive proposition for society". People would be able to retain their jobs during the week, "but at least they would be spending some time in prison". He said something that had to be done because

prisons were full. The prison population was 57,500 and rising by about 1,000 per month. "We cannot take any more prisoners. It is as simple as that. My association is saying this is not just a problem for the Prison Service system. It is a problem for the whole of the criminal justice system."

He said that short-term prisoners could be released a few months before the end of their sentences and fine-defaulters could be given non-custodial sentences. Mr Scott stressed that he was not saying there would inevitably be prison disturbances if something was not done about the number of inmates, but the number of complaints could rise.

Mr Tilt said that he shared

many of Mr Scott's concerns. The Prison Service was getting very close to capacity but plans for more accommodation were being drawn up. Some 7,000 extra places were under construction and would be delivered over the next 18 months. Some prefabricated accommodation was also being bought.

The debate over prison capacity follows publication of the Government's Crime (Sentences) Bill last Friday. With its tougher mandatory sentences for violent criminals, sex offenders and repeat burglars, and its curbs on parole and reduced sentences, the legislation means that the prison population is expected to soar. A further 12 prisons are likely to be required to cope.

West family asked to destroy house sign

Frederick and Rosemary West's older children are to be asked to agree to the destruction of the wrought iron sign which hung outside their home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. The Official Solicitor, who represents the interests of the younger West children, will meet the adult children early next month when it is expected he will ask for their consent to the sign being destroyed.

There are fears that the sign, which is being held in a secure room at Gloucester central police station, could become the centre of ghoulish financial speculation if offered for sale.

Ship drug arrests

A Spanish man and woman will appear before magistrates in Plymouth today, charged with attempting to smuggle 30 kilograms of cannabis resin and 250 grams of cocaine in the fuel tank of a car. The vehicle arrived in Plymouth on a ferry from Santander.

Record beater

A 15-year-old drummer claimed a world record after playing 256 tambourines in 20.47 seconds at Finlake holiday park in south Devon. Rowdy Blackwell beat the previous record by almost ten seconds and raised more than £1,500 for charity.

A close shave

A Crown Court judge was given a written caution after he was caught shaving while driving to court. A traffic patrol stopped Peter Armstrong, a recorder, on the A19 near Middlesbrough when officers saw him shaving behind the wheel of his BMW.

Climbers saved

Three climbers were rescued on Crinkle Crags, in the Lake District, because one of them was carrying a locator beacon, rescuers said. The three, from Wigan, became lost in mist. They were not suitably dressed to survive a night in the open.

Rare birth

A monkey-tailed skink, one of the world's endangered reptiles, has been bred in captivity at a British zoo for the first time. The skink, a species of lizard that comes from the Solomon Islands, was born at the Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford, Oxfordshire.

Somme violin

A violin made from trees that grew on the battlefields of the Somme will be played at the Remembrance Sunday concert at the Royal Albert Hall on November 10. It was made in 1983 by Kenneth Poppell, a former Royal Philharmonic Orchestra violinist.

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Visions of the past unearthed on country estate



Teacher's wife Pat Pay: "The more research I did, the more fascinated I became by the history of the place"

School takes garden path into the roots of history

By MICHAEL HORNBY

CHILDREN may be able to see two centuries of history growing back into shape in an ambitious plan to restore a country estate around their school.

The 250-acre Ganton Park was landscaped by Capability Brown. It contains a Doric temple where owners elected themselves to Parliament in the days when the estate was a "rotten" borough, and there are ornamental gardens laid out by a 20th-century entrepreneur.

The estate, in the hills east of Reigate, Surrey, is now owned by the co-educational Royal Alexandra and Albert School. Staff have already begun the arduous work of reclaiming overgrown rock and water gardens laid out in the early 1900s to the instructions of Sir Jeremiah Colman, founder of the mustard firm.

The seeds of the project were sown a year ago when Pat Pay, wife of the Senior Master, attended a Surrey Wildlife Trust course on how schools in country settings could make better use of their grounds. "The more research I did, the more fascinated I became by the history of the place," she said. Mrs Pay and her husband live in a cottage in what may have been the estate's former kitchen garden, and she has collected documents on the estate's past.

"We have been told by the Ministry of Agriculture that we could qualify for a grant under the Countryside Stewardship scheme to meet 75 per cent of the £14,000 cost of commissioning a restoration and management plan. That



Glimpses of past glory: swans on an overgrown pond, and a vista planned by Capability Brown



could open the way to apply for funds from other sources such as the National Lottery."

Mrs Pay is enthusiastically supported by Roy Bushin, who took over as Headmaster of the 520-pupil, voluntary-aided school four years ago. Surrey County Council is also keen on the scheme, and English Heritage has put the

estate on its register of historic parks and gardens with a Grade II listing.

Mrs Pay said: "Any outside funds are going to come with strings attached. My overwhelming imperative has to be that this is a living, breathing school. We now need to sit down and see how its interests can be safeguarded while making the grounds more accessible to the public and pupils from other schools."

"We now have the chance to recreate a historical progression from the broad sweep of the 18th-century park to the more intimate ornamental gardens of the late 19th and early 20th centuries."

Brown was hired to improve the grounds in the 1760s by Sir George Colebrooke. The main elements of his design remain, with views across undulating turf to a lake and two ponds in a valley. However, the lake and ponds are silting up, scrub woodland has obscured Brown's vistas, and other trees have been lost. Reintroducing sheep-grazing, it has been suggested, could help to restore the quality of the grassland.

A further 250 acres of the original park now form part of an adjacent National Trust property and the school has had preliminary discussions with trust officials about ways to manage the two blocks as an integrated whole.

In recent months, Mrs Pay and a group of about volunteers have been busy most Sundays unearthing the remains of a rockery where water once cascaded down a 25ft cliff of artfully arranged boulders into a lily pond. They have also located the outlines of a Japanese garden, almost completely concealed beneath a copse of trees.

Sir Jeremiah Colman bought the estate in 1888 and lived there until his death in 1942, after which it was acquired by the school. The house was rebuilt in Classical Revival style after being gutted by fire in 1934.

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Artificial skin brings hope to diabetics

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THOUSANDS of British diabetics, faced with crippling and potentially life-threatening complications of their illness, have been offered new hope by scientists.

Diabetics can develop wounds on their feet which are extremely hard to cure. Often they cause gangrene, forcing the amputation of the foot.

Scientists hope that trials of a form of artificially grown skin, called Dermagraft, will remedy the problem. Eight weekly applications of small patches of the skin to the ulcers caused complete cures in half the cases. Three months later, it was hardly possible to detect where the ulcer had been.

The success of the trial, carried out by Advanced Tissue Sciences of California, in partnership with the British company Smith & Nephew, means that the product should be available in the second half of next year. The patches will be grown in California, sealed in packages and frozen at -70C for transport. In Britain, up to 50,000 diabetic patients suffer ulcers, and the product will be used where conventional methods have failed – in about 50 per cent of cases.

The source of the skin cells are foreskins from circumcised babies. From each foreskin the company can make more than 23,000 square millimetres of dermis, the lower layer in normal skin. Dermis is not rejected when it is transplanted into another person, so there is no need for immune-suppressant drugs.

The cells are grown on a fine polymer mesh, which can be cut to fit. In the trial, 240 patients were divided into two groups, half treated with Dermagraft and the other half with normal dressings. Each week for eight weeks a new layer of Dermagraft was laid on top of the last when the wound was dressed.

The aim was to achieve complete closure of the wound within 12 weeks, which was achieved in half the patients, compared to just 8 per cent of the control group. Dr Alan Suggett, of Smith & Nephew, believes longer treatment would have achieved success in a much larger proportion. Gail Naughton of ATS, said the cure rate was greater and quicker with Dermagraft than with standard treatments.

"Nobody has been successful in the past in diabetic ulcer trials," she said. About 15 per cent of cases lead to amputation and half of the patients who need amputation die within three years.

Once cured with the aid of Dermagraft, the ulcers have not come back. "The longest we have studied so far has had no recurrence after 28 months," she said. "That's a truly wonderful result."

Diabetics suffer ulcers because of the changes in their skin, circulation and nervous system caused by the disease. Special shoes can help, but in severe cases doctors are powerless. The potential market is huge, with around 400,000 patients a year in the United States alone.

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Queen in the land where monarchy is still adored

■ Thai filmgoers stand for the national anthem, and publishing royal scandal amounts to a crime. The Queen may feel a touch of envy when she begins her visit today. Alan Hamilton reports from Bangkok

THE Queen may feel a pang of envy as she begins a five-day state visit to Thailand today to celebrate the golden jubilee of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch.

Thais revere, even worship, their 68-year-old King and still stand for the screening of his portrait and the national anthem in cinemas. The media would never dream of emulating the dirt-digging of the British tabloid press; publishing royal scandal in this country amounts to a criminal offence.

Portraits of the King are everywhere, from street corners to taxi dashboards. They have been joined in recent days by large pictures of the Queen, erected in strategic locations in Bangkok, bearing messages of welcome and accompanied by avenues of Union flags on the road from the airport to the city. They line the route of some of the most congested streets in the world, which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will

have to negotiate with the aid of a large police escort.

Last night Thai television broadcast an appeal not to steal the flags. The Union Jack is particularly appealing to a nation which enjoys colour and is quite happy to purloin anything not nailed down to decorate homes.

In a country which so reveres constitutional monarchy, the Queen is assured of a warm welcome, although she cannot quite match the record of King Bhumibol in having witnessed 17 military coups and still survived. Media attention at home is likely to be less focused than it might have been: Buckingham Palace officials are irritated that Diana, Princess of Wales has chosen this week to visit Sydney in aid of an Australian research charity.

The King's anniversary is described by Palace officials as "an auspicious backdrop" to the visit, which is really about trade. Since she last visited the country in 1972, British trade with Thailand has increased twentyfold. Besides experiencing investment by the likes of Rolls-Royce and Standard Chartered Bank, Thais can shop at Boots and Mothercare and enjoy British custard as a balm to their own spicy diet.

During her visit, the Queen will watch an elaborate procession of barges in Bangkok, while the Duke will fly up-country to visit Commonwealth war graves on the notorious Burma-Thailand railway, where thousands of British and Allied PoWs died at the hands of the Japanese.

A plan for the Duke, who is president of the Burma Star Association, to take a boat trip to see the Bridge on the River Kwai was abandoned yesterday. Palace officials said that insufficient time had been allowed in his schedule, but they are equally conscious of



Workers finish floral decorations in Bangkok yesterday in honour of the Queen's visit. Local television has appealed to royal-loving Thais not to steal the Union flags



King Bhumibol: golden jubilee celebrations

war veterans' opposition to Thai attempts to turn the bridge — not the original in the Alec Guinness film — into a tourist attraction.

There are other dark clouds in this monarchical paradise.

On Friday the London charity Prisoners Abroad wrote to the Queen asking her to seek a pardon from King Bhumibol on behalf of Sandra Gregory, the 30-year-old Yorkshirewoman sentenced to 25 years for attempting to smuggle heroin. Palace officials said

last night that it was unlikely the Queen would raise the issue. She would be guided by ministerial advice and, given that John Major, on a visit earlier this year, declined to intercede, the Government is unlikely to change its mind.

The Queen may find other issues familiar. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, the 44-year-old heir, has had marriage difficulties which go unreported in the Thai press but are the talk of Bangkok's society. He has, in the past,

put posters outside his palace announcing that his first wife, from whom he is divorced, and his second, who is reported to be living incognito in London, were not welcome.

The King's daughter, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, a businesslike woman reminiscent of the Princess Royal, has been promoted to second in line of succession. Significantly, she is playing a major role this week.

Focus: Thailand, pages 42, 43

King is the cement that binds nation together

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BANGKOK

THAIS say the monarch is the glue that binds together this Buddhist nation of 60 million. Though constitutional monarchy was established in 1932, and his powers are minimal, King Bhumibol is accorded a near-religious devotion unknown in European monarchies.

The Thais show deep affection for the King for his work among rural poor, his political skills and his readiness to step in to end bloodshed, such as his intervention in 1992 after soldiers killed dozens of demonstrators in the streets.

Though the austere, sombre-looking King has been grooming his eldest son as his successor, the Prince has yet to earn the respect and authority enjoyed by his father. Foreign diplomats and some Thais are intrigued by the similarities of the marital difficulties and issues such as the suitability for succession of both the Prince of Wales and the Thai Crown Prince. "You have to wonder

if their Majesties will not discuss these matters very privately, when and if they get together outside the official programme, and offer some mutual comfort," said one source.

Despite the lack of reporting of royal scandal in the media, rumours still circulate. In 1992, Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn told reporters that he was "hurt and felt heavy-hearted" by rumours that he was involved in the underworld.

"Do I look like a *chao por* [Mafia boss] type?" the heir asked. "I tell you, if I were, I would have been a millionaire by now."

He said he had heard allegations that he "ran a pub here, had a nightclub there". He denied the rumours, saying, "I don't understand why, whenever anything goes wrong, it always linked to me."

The marriage of the King's third daughter, Princess Chulabhorn, 38, to an Air Force officer recently ended amid reports of domestic violence when they lived in Washington. Once the police were summoned to their house but left without laying charges.

The first daughter and the King's original favourite, Princess Ubolratana, married an American and lives in the United States. It took many years before the King was reconciled to her marriage to a foreigner.

King Bhumibol, known as Rama IX of the Chakri dynasty, succeeded his elder brother, Ananda Mahidol, who died mysteriously of a gunshot wound. A well-known prophecy in Thailand has it that the Chakri dynasty will have only nine Kings.

Envys say that, while the succession to a monarch as revered as King Bhumibol will not be easy, in the end, even if it does go to the Crown Prince, it will be accepted by Thais for the sake of the continuity.

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THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

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THE TIMES

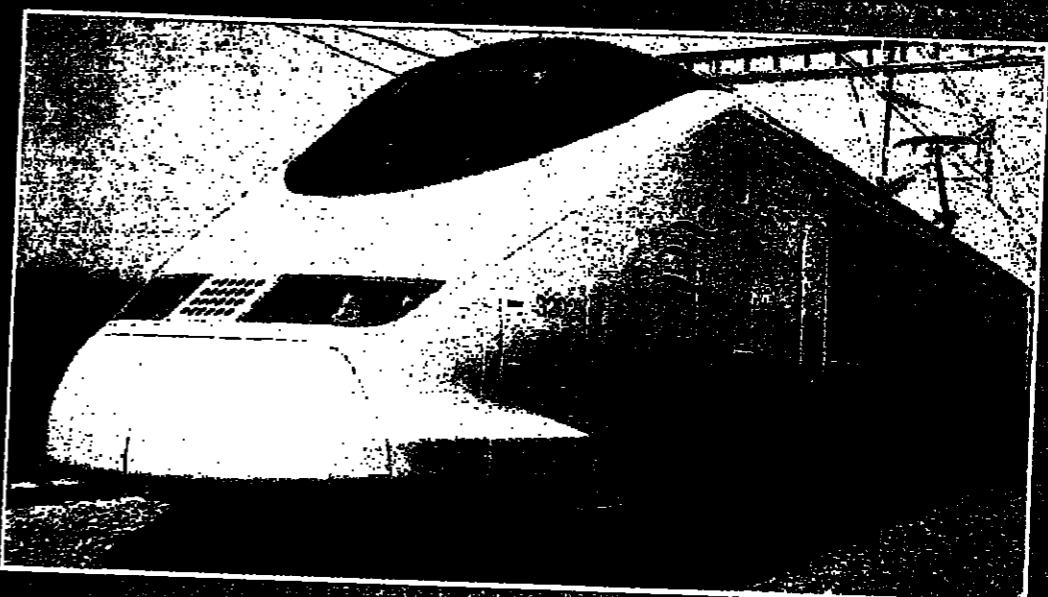
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CHANGING TIMES

Russians
cashed in
on secrets

Brussels promise of jam tomorrow will keep East waiting until 2003

On the chilly plateau on the outskirts of Luxembourg where the European Union's foreign ministers meet today, Bulgarian jam, Polish peppers and Czech duck will be off the menu. The trench warfare over food imports from Central Europe has bogged down so badly that the item does not even appear on the agenda.

For two years, ministers and officials have been wrangling about letting more grain, plums and sugar beet into Western Europe. Bulgaria, whose Government is



IN EUROPE

jam into the EU each year. A coalition of countries, led by Germany, refused an increase in the allowance which would have let in an extra half lorryload of jam after five years. Unpublished European Commission figures show that, even if all the increases had gone through, the EU would still have a farm trade surplus.

Keep this depressingly little saga in mind when politicians talk about taking countries such as Poland and Hungary into the EU. President Chirac told the Poles recently that he hoped they

would be in the EU by the turn of the century; Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has said the same.

Entry in the year 2000 is pure baloney, and every EU government knows it. Any politician who encourages such hopes is telling lies and inflicting a cruel deception on people in Central Europe. In the past few months, a schedule of sorts has emerged. The best-qualified states bring off a miracle if they slip inside the EU club in January 1998.

The EU said that "enlargement" talks can start six months after the end of the

current revision of the Maastricht treaty. Suppose that ends in June 1997; prospective members could begin negotiating in January 1998.

Nobody in Brussels imagines that this intricate work with a leading group (Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and perhaps Slovaks) could be finished in less than three years. Then allow between 18 months to two years for parliaments and referendums to ratify the terms hammered out. That takes us to 2003. The Eurocrats who think like this are

the super-optimists that timetable can unravel only if nothing goes wrong. Since the arrival of the Easterners promises revolutionary changes in the way the EU gets and spends money, the way is littered with snags. The single currency will only create an inner club from which the Easterners will feel further excluded.

Suppose Spain and the Club Med refuse to ratify Maastricht II before getting guarantees about the preservation of their subsidies. "The Spanish and tomatoes, they just go berserk," murmured a weary Brussels diplomat. If Spain is further annoyed by exclusion from the single currency in the spring of 1998, the EU's three big changes — starting the euro, taking new members and reforming its budget — will all be entangled and Easterners on the outside will lose.

If there is any issue crying out for a political leader to cut through quite genuine but soluble problems and to sell the case for knitting Europe back together, surely this is it. Yet no leader speaks. Last year Brit-

ish civil servants went to Bonn to debate these problems and were astonished to be told Germany did not wish to provoke any public discussion for at least a couple of years.

In 1989, one of the protestors against the Communist regime held up a placard reading *Zpet do Evropy* (Back into Europe). Now, a Eurocrat is stationed on the EU's eastern frontier with a sign bearing the pathetic reply: "Not yet and only when we've sorted ourselves out."

GEORGE BROCK

Catholic dissident fires broadside at 'despotic' Pope

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE Pope attended his first public ceremony yesterday since his appendix operation three weeks ago, but was greeted on his reappearance by a devastating broadside from the Roman Catholic world's leading dissident.

Hans Küng, the Swiss theologian disciplined by the Vatican for his questioning of papal authority, accused Pope John Paul II of "despotic rule in the spirit of the Inquisition". He openly called for a new Pope who would "save the barque of St Peter from sinking" by allowing new thinking on women priests, married male priests, divorce and birth control.

The Pope presided at Mass for over an hour at St Peter's yesterday to mark the 350th anniversary of the Union of Uzhhorod, which reconciled the Ruthenian Eastern Church with Rome after the great East-West schism of 1054. He then addressed a crowd from his window above the square, signalling that he is back in charge of the Vatican.

Dr Küng, the liberal theologian from Tübingen, who has been a thorn in the side of the Pope since his election in 1978, chose the moment of the Pope's re-emergence to launch a attack on his "medieval obscurantism". In "Ten Theses on the Future of the Church and the Papacy", published in *Corriere della Sera*, he said that a new Pope was needed who would let in fresh air to a "rigid and stagnating papacy", paving the way for women priests and married male priests and rallying the faithful at a time when millions were deserting the Church.

Dr Küng said that under the present Pope, whose views on sexual morality and women were "despotic", Catholics were "not allowed to challenge

and has been denounced repeatedly by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, formerly the Holy Office, the guardian of orthodoxy and successor to the Inquisition. But he continues to teach and publish and retains a strong following.

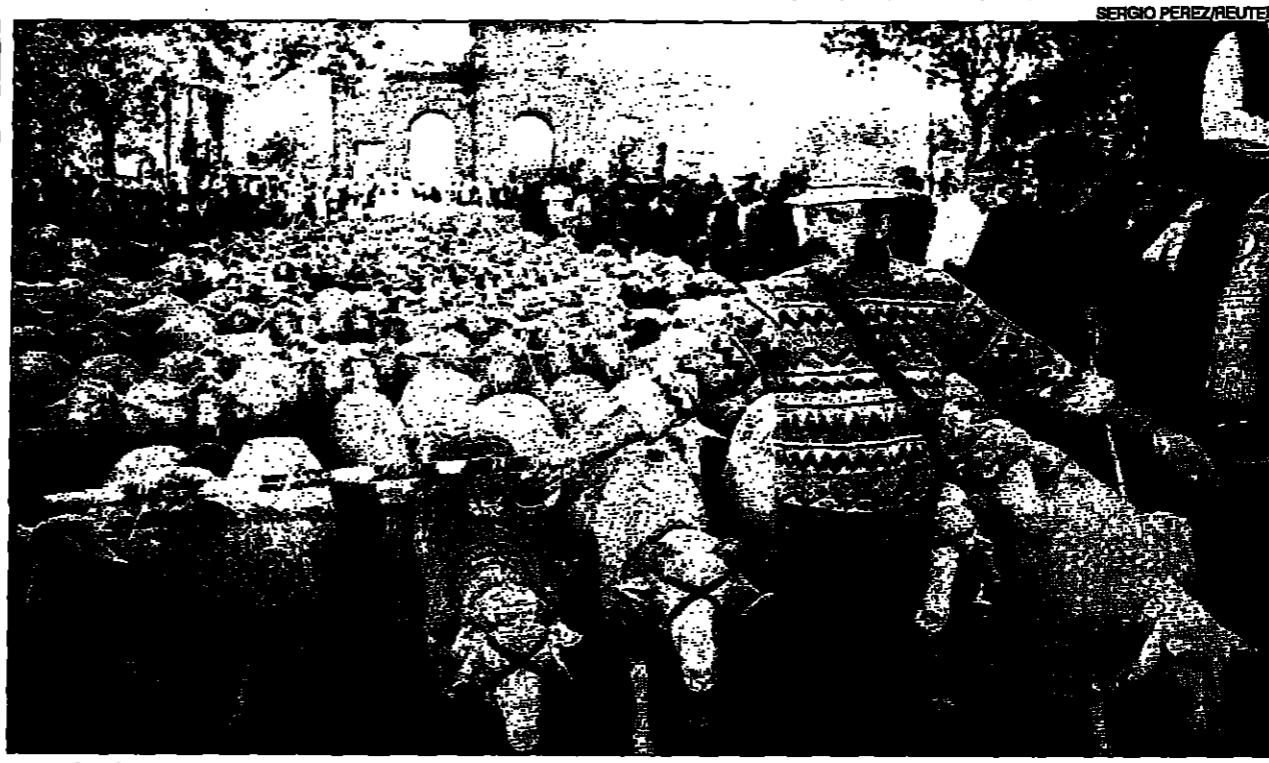
In his "theses" Dr Küng called on the Vatican to "abandon its policy of excommunications and threats". He said: "We need a new captain to chart a new course. The Church is not a warship with rigid military discipline, with one person alone beating time with a hammer. It is no longer acceptable for the captain to behave like a devout despot."

He said that the Church was in a structural crisis, "like a ship rolling from side to side and in danger of sinking". The Pope, as captain, did not deign to consult the crew and passengers anymore. Under John XXIII the ship had been "full of energy and hope ... but now it has lost its way, it is drifting without a rudder. The horizon is misty and many believers have given up hope and jumped ship".

Dr Küng said that the Pope, rooted in Polish Catholicism, wanted to take the ship back to the "port of medieval pseudo-security". Instead of words such as dialogue, modernisation and ecumenism, his reign was typified by words such as obedience, authority and sanction. Anyone who suggested that the "discriminatory ban" on married priests or women in high sacred office was out of date was condemned despite the crying need to fill parish vacancies.

Dr Küng urged Vatican officials to "stop being servile to their despotic captain". He added: "Someone must dare to look the captain in the face and say that the Lord is the highest authority, not the Pope. God is the owner of the ship."

Küng: Pope is ruling in spirit of the Inquisition



A shepherd leads a flock of 2,000 sheep past the Alcalá gate in central Madrid yesterday in a protest over the loss of traditional migration routes which have been taken over for recreational and other agricultural uses

Malta votes on entry to EU club

FROM REUTER
IN VALLETTA

ELECTION officials laboriously counted votes under watchful eyes yesterday after a record 97 per cent turnout in Malta's general election, which will decide whether the Mediterranean island joins the European Union.

At stake is the future of Malta's application to join the EU, to be pursued if the former ruling Nationalist Party wins and scrapped if the opposition Labour Party wins. Edward Fenech Adami, 62, the Prime Minister who had a three-seat majority in the 65-member parliament, is pledged to pursue the EU membership application he made in 1990. Alfred Sant, 48, the Labour leader, is committed to end Malta's application.

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Dole team aims for split vote to keep grip on Congress

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

WHILE Bob Dole sounds increasingly shrill in the final week of the American election, Republican leaders have all but accepted that he will lose in a landslide to President Clinton and are focusing instead on retaining control of Congress.

To this end, they are launching an extraordinary advertising campaign today calling on voters to support Republican candidates to avoid giving the President and "liberal special interests" a blank cheque in the new Congress.

The commercials, implying that Mr Clinton will be re-elected a week tomorrow, appeal to the growing number of Americans who are telling pollsters that they will consciously choose to retain a balance of power between the parties, as has happened before.

In doing so, they will vote to return the Democratic Mr Clinton to the White House at one end of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington while opting to leave Republicans in charge of Capitol Hill at the other. It is a sign that voters do not trust either party with a monopoly and that they ap-

prove of the compromises Mr Clinton and the Republicans were forced to reach on welfare reform and the minimum wage.

Evidence of this so-called ticket-splitting surfaced in a Harris poll that found 55 per cent believe it is good to have a President from one party and Congress controlled by the other. A corroborating poll for Reuter found only two thirds of potential Clinton voters are certain that they will also vote to send Democrats to Congress.

Indeed, ticket-splitting is bad news for Democrats who need 18 seats to recapture the House of Representatives and a gain of three in the Senate. Both races are tight. Democrats could also be hurt more than Republicans by wide-

spread voter apathy. With no burning issues to ignite the electorate, there are predictions that the turnout could fall below 50 per cent for the first time.

Mr Dole, campaigning by bus in California's Central Valley, reiterated his "wake-up call" to voters and urged Mr Clinton to "confess" to the sins of his Administration. He led an audience of several thousand in a taunting chant directed at the President: "It's time to go! It's time to go!"

Mr Dole, who was gravely wounded in the Second World War, scoffed at Mr Clinton's lack of military record, a calculated reminder that he dodged the Vietnam draft. "I'm a little unnerved when I see him wearing his army fatigues like he's been wearing them all his life," Mr Dole declared. He took a swipe at Hillary Clinton over the Whitewater papers that vanished after the death of Vincent Foster, deputy White House counsel, and he implored voters to rise up against the "liberal" media.

Yet no matter how barbed his comments, Mr Dole cannot dent Mr Clinton's 12-to-20 per cent lead in national polls. The President continues to campaign with serene confi-

dence, untouched by accusations of foreign money, underhand shenanigans, abuses of power and deceptive advertising. Despite his complaints about the media, Mr Dole has largely spared any mainstream coverage of a report in

the *National Enquirer*, a supermarket tabloid, saying he had an affair that started four years before his first marriage ended in divorce in 1972.

The woman was identified as Meredith Roberts, now 63, an Australian working in

Washington as a secretary and part-time freelance journalist. She said she turned down \$50,000 (£31,500) to co-operate with the *Enquirer*, describing the offer as "blood money".

The Washington Post said

its reporters had confirmed the relationship, but the paper had published nothing because the editors felt that it was irrelevant to Mr Dole's presidential candidacy.

Peter Riddell, page 22

Richard Jewell, 33, received a letter from the authorities which advised him that he was "not a target" of the investigation into last July's explosion in Atlanta's Olympic Centennial Park. For Mr Jewell it was vindication after almost three months in which he was chased by the media.

One person died and more than 100 were injured in the incident. Mr Jewell's character was also pretty much destroyed but he may now have a chance to make good money with libel actions against the world's media.

Richard Jewell, 33, received a letter from the authorities which advised him that he was "not a target" of the investigation into last July's explosion in Atlanta's Olympic Centennial Park. For Mr Jewell it was vindication after almost three months in which he was chased by the media.

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A jubilee for writers

DAY 1 NEW FOWLER'S

Almost everybody can write. And most of us have to write every day, even if it's only a thank-you card or a subsequently illegible shopping-list.

Those of us who write for a living have time and inclination to do little else. Our condition is not new. Nineteen centuries ago Juvenal knew about scribbler's itch. "Many suffer from the incurable disease of scribbling, and it becomes chronic in their diseased minds." Hence the Niagara of unsolicited manuscripts thundering upon newspapers.

There is nothing to it really. Apply bottom to seat of chair. Start writing until you have produced your quota. From Trollope to Ackroyd, some authors have been awesomely disciplined. Most daily jour-

Philip Howard finds the new, updated version of Fowler's is still an indispensable aid to lovers of the English language

nalists need the terror of the imminent deadline to kick-start them into the writing mode.

All writers need certain basic tools. They need something to write with, whether stub of pencil and back of envelope or keyboard and modem. They should have within easy reach the biggest

dictionary they can afford, to make sure that they really mean what they have written. They should have a sound, single-volume dictionary to check such problematic spellings as "beleaguered" and "minuscule" (better avoid both as misused clichés, anyway).

I need the *ODQ* and *Brewer and Hart's Rules for Compositors and Readers as security blankets*. Many use a Roger. But they should use it as a sniper's rifle to pinpoint the exact word, and not as a blunderbuss to pepper their prose with elegant variation and *otiose* adjectives. Most adjectives are otiose, including that one.

Most writers need a packet of Marie biscuits, to procrastinate the terrible moment of scrolling words onto a virgin screen. And any writer worth his/her salt will have a *Fowler's* close to hand. For just such problems as how to write a gender-neutral possessive pronoun (should it be "his", "her/his" or "their") in that last sentence, and whether it is "on to" or "onto" and "procrastinate" or "prevaricate" in the penultimate sentence?

So the arrival of the third edition of *Fowler's* is a jubilee year for all writers. It is 70 years since the first edition of *Fowler's Modern English Usage* burst upon the scribbling world. So some of its usage is long past its shelf-life.

For example, many words that *Fowler's* derided as barbarisms and solecisms have passed into the undisputed area of standard English: for example *electrocute*, *escalate*, *eventuate*, *interface*, *liaise*, *meticulous* ("What is the strange charm that at one time made this wicked word irresistible to the British journalist?").

But this third edition is a major revision that records the

changes in usage, idiom, semantics and grammar of the end of the century. And for the first time it is the work of a professional linguistic scholar. *Fowler's* was a retired and hermit-like (he would surely have recommended eremitic rather than hermetic) teacher of Classics and English at Sedbergh, and his prescriptions about how to write proper English are idiosyncratic, humorous, whimsical and occasionally misguided (or even, perish the thought, mistaken). Behind his work you can hear the good, liberal teacher making his sixth form laugh.

Gowers was Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, who wrote to make his juniors write simple, clear English.

But Bob Burchfield is the leading linguistic scholar of the age. He edited the postwar *Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary*. Since that was completed ten years ago, he has been working on his revision of *Fowler's*. And he is a historical prescriptivist by training rather than a natural synchronic prescriptivist. (Phew! — He works with evidence, not arbitrary rules.)

So his *Fowler's* is based on "meticulous" citations rather than just hunch and literary taste. A historical lexicographer works by collecting evidence of contemporary usage from a huge variety of sources, on computer these days, and so describing how people actually write and wrote. *Fowler* annoyed the crusties by refusing to shoot some of their *bêtes noires*. Burchfield is going to

annoy them more by producing quotations demonstrating that the best writers have ridden their *bêtes noirs* through their dearest taboos.

A lexicographer is interested

in the evidence, and only then perhaps in popular linguistic prejudice. English usage is the peculiar possession of all who write it, and nobody likes being shown that their (his/her) dearest "rules" and prejudices are built on foundations of painted smoke.

See, for example, Burchfield's historical treatment of the modern evolution of the wicked little word "gay". Note his demonstration that American uses that cause mild amusement in Britain (the pronunciation of words ending in -ile such as "missile" and "virile") program, and

ways "We've come a ways in journalism too" are merely old ones retained in America but abandoned in standard British English.

Burchfield's personal database, together with the computerised quotation files of the *OED*, have provided a far bigger pool of English usage than was available to *Fowler* or Gowers. No databases for them, apart from their own cuttings (clippings) files kept in school notebooks.

In his citations in the *Supplement* Burchfield showed an admirably modern literary taste for the language of the latest poets and novelists (never forgetting his native New Zealanders). I doubt whether *Fowler* and Gowers read any modern novels or "poetry" later than Trollope and Pope.

Burchfield's special subject (early medieval English, with particular reference to the 13th-century Augustinian monk, Orm) enables him to show that the 20th-century changes in English are small beer compared with such lingoquakes as the loss of grammatical gender in the past.

He has the dashing attitude of a first-class wing-three-quarter (he played for the Kiwi Army) to the wimps who suppose that English is suffering from a linguistic death-watch beetle.

Of course in such a huge field there are flaws in his armour. The entry for rhyming-slang is limited and out-of-date. Why no *barocci* (+ lint = skirt), pony (+ trap = crap) or radio (+ rental = mental)? And of course the prescriptions are Burchfield's personal advice. They are not written on tablets of stone by some infallible, immutable god of grammar.

You are allowed to disagree.

You are
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but it
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rash to try

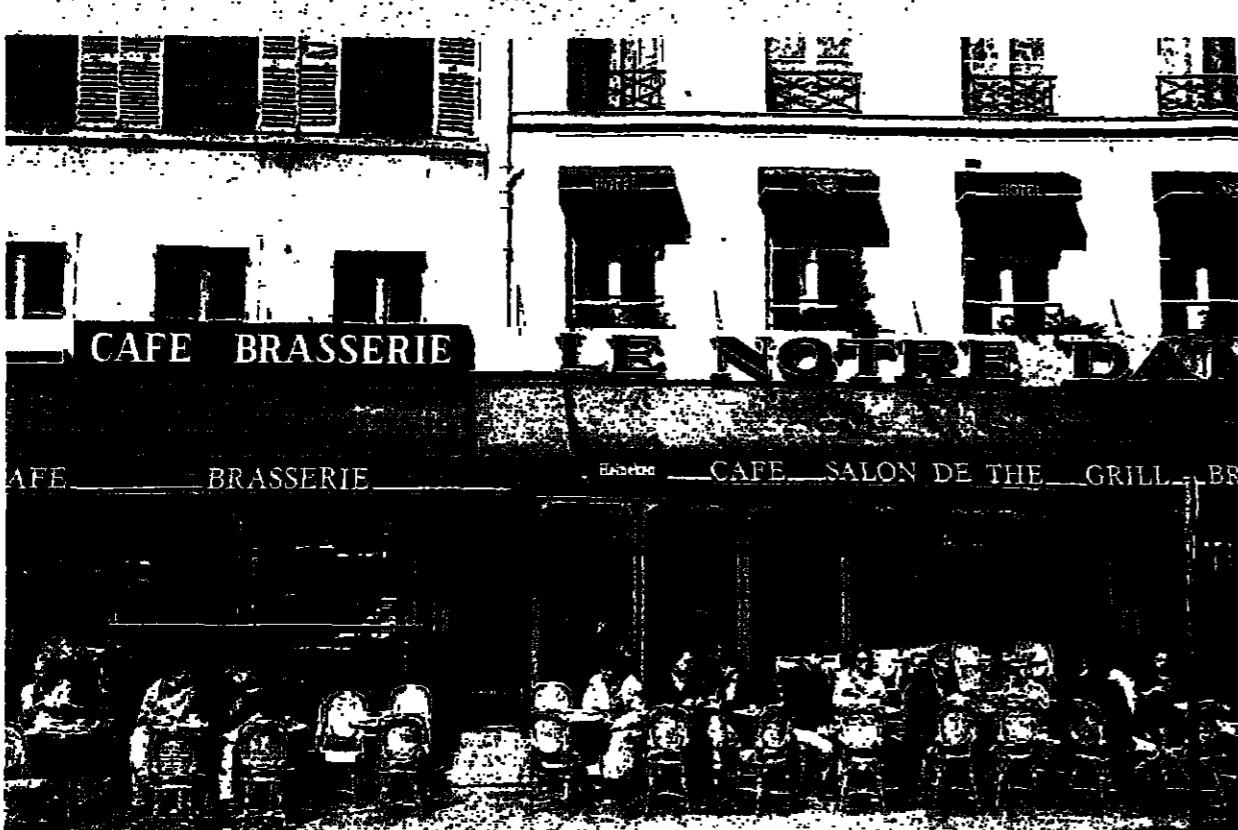
You are allowed to disagree though you might be rash to do so. But you should read the evidence first. Burchfield is a broad-minded stylist as well as a formidable scholar.

The *OED Supplement* was originally planned as one volume and ended as four, because it grew and grew. This *Fowler's* is also bigger than its predecessors, because it is scholarly and authoritative as well as comprehensive. But it still (just) makes a single volume and will fit comfortably on a desk of decent size. You could write good English without it beside you. But you would be a fool to try.

● The new *Fowler's Modern English Usage third edition*, edited by R.W. Burchfield, £16.99.

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THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

BRIDGEMAN

FETISHES

Fowler (1926) presented a list of grammatical and other linguistic features which, in his opinion, evoked irrational devotion, respect, or hostility, in other words had become *fetishes*.

Among "the more notable or harmful" were (the italics indicate where in *Modern English Usage* the features were treated): *split infinitive*; *false quantity*: avoidance of repetition (*elegant variation*); and *which*: a craze for native words (*Saxonism*); pedantry on the foreign spelling of foreign words (*morale*); the notion that *averse* to and *different* to are marks of the uneducated; the dread of a preposition at *end*: the idea that successive metaphors are mixed (*metaphors*); the belief that common words lack dignity (*formal words*).

In this respect little has changed since 1926. At public and private functions, and in letters, when devotees of Fowler express their opinions to me, these are among the principal items mentioned, together with the erroneous use of classical plurals as singulars (*criteria*, *phenomena*, etc.), the use of *hopefully* as a sentence adverb, and a few other points. As perhaps at all times in previous generations, the more complex mechanisms of the language are left largely undiscussed except by scholars.

Prevaricate means "to speak or act evasively or misleadingly; to quibble, to equivocate". It does not mean "to delay" though it is sometimes so used by confusion with *procrastinate*.



If only *Fowler's* had been to hand then... *In the Library, St James' Square*, by Pole, an early 19th century work

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THE TIMES

The perils of
the split
infinitive

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PROS

Star Wars lasers take aim at the space junk

Shooting lasers into the skies to pick off space junk sounds like something out of *Star Wars*. But this is exactly what the brightest brains at America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) have come up with in a desperate attempt to tackle a menace which threatens the satellites and spacecraft circling the globe.

Project Orion is an ambitious effort to rid the crowded space around the Earth of a particularly dangerous class of orbital junk. These are the millions of pieces of debris, some between one and ten centimetres long, others ranging in size from a bullet to a cricket ball.

Smaller, dust-like particles can be warded off by protective shielding. And because the larger objects can be tracked as they circle the Earth, operators on the ground can manoeuvre satellites and spacecraft around them.

"The sizes we are aiming at are tough to detect and impossible to protect against," says project head Dr Jonathan Campbell, from the Advanced Concepts Group at Nasa's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama. Their average velocity is a frightening 10 km a second.

The scheme, planned jointly by Nasa and the US Air Force Space Command, would use radar to detect a suitable piece of orbital debris. A ground-based laser would immediately target it and,

A new scheme plans to rid space of its dangerous debris. Report by Anjana Ahuja

using short sharp pulses, burn off a portion of the underside. The evaporating stream of material would then act as a thruster, nudging the particle from its circular orbit around the Earth into a more elliptical one. Eventually, the particle's orbit would take it into the atmosphere, where it would burn up safely.

But the scheme faces two enormous hurdles. First, the narrow laser beam would diverge as it journeyed towards its target. By the time the beam arrived, its energy would be spread so thinly it would be useless. Second, the laser beam had to pass through the atmosphere en route to its rendezvous in space. Atmospheric turbulence could deflect the laser beam, degrading its quality and knocking it off-course.

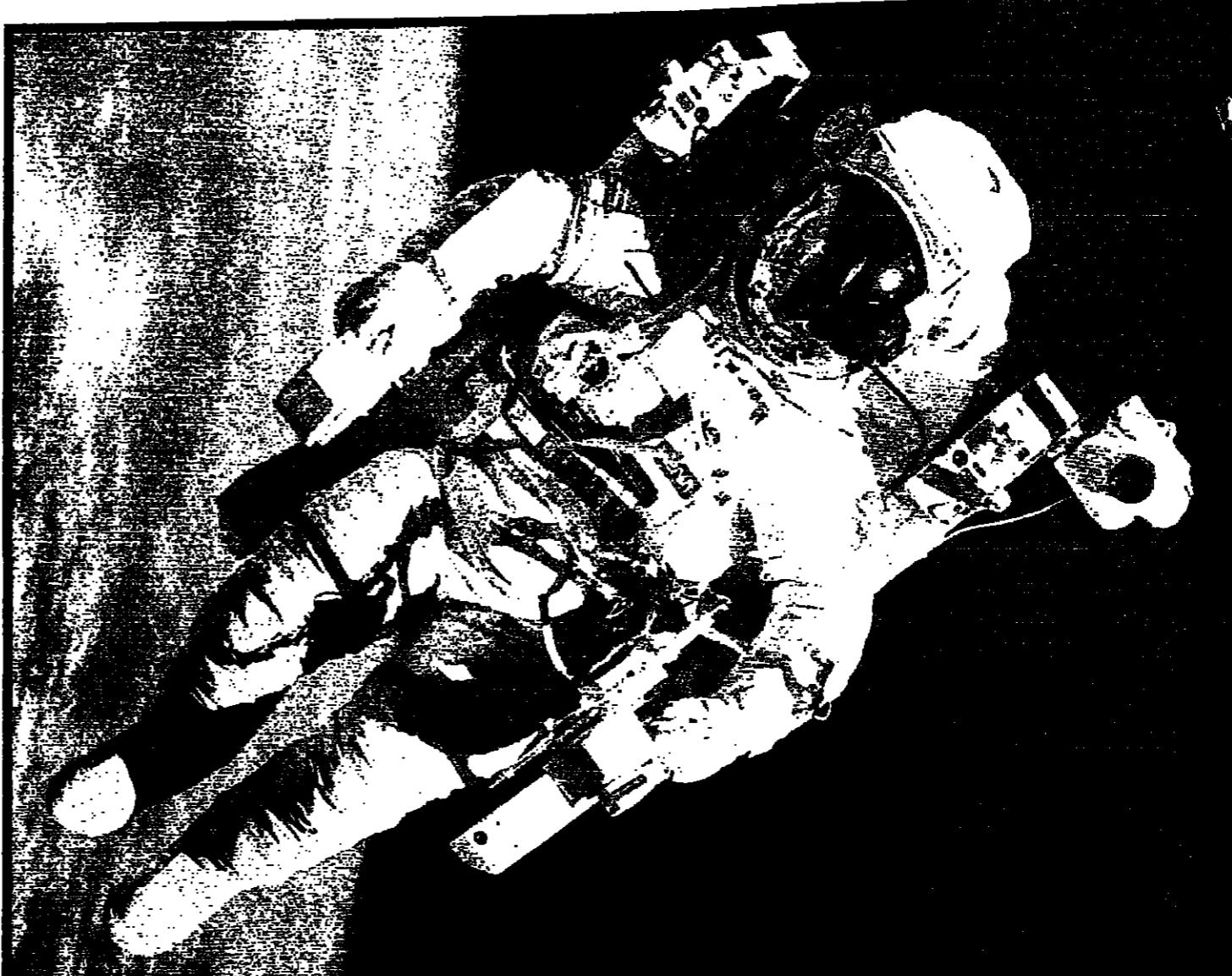
Scientists have called upon state-of-the-art adaptive optics for assistance. The optical arrangement used in Orion comprises lenses and mirrors to deform and focus different parts of the beam. These optics are linked to equipment

that can measure the characteristics of the atmosphere between the ground and the target, and compensate for them. By sending the laser to the target by this equipment, the laser remains safely locked onto its target, and the spread can be contained to a one-metre diameter.

Orion also poses security implications. After all, the concept is all about developing a way of destroying items in space using lasers on the ground. Could it be used to sabotage undesirable satellites? The way round that quandary is likely to be the use of fairly weak lasers. Dr Campbell thinks that the project may find favour because it can be adapted to destroy hazardous meteors.

Low power lasers also have the advantage of minimising unintentional damage to satellites, and other flying phenomena. "There is some potential for damage but it's extremely small," Dr Campbell stresses. "In the unlikely event that we bump a satellite, most would be able to correct their orbit. As for birds, they probably wouldn't notice. And we would make planes fly around the airspace."

In two years, Orion has blossomed from a "Buck Rogers" concept into a potential weapon against the band of flotsam on the planet's doorstep. Dr Campbell says: "I was sceptical when I first started. But not only is it feasible in theory, but we already have equipment that would allow us to clear all the debris of that size range below an altitude of 800 kilometres." This 800km "safe zone" would protect many valuable space assets, including the planned Iridium and Teledesic fleets of satellites, which together constitute almost 1,000 spacecraft. At 500km, the manned space stations also fall



An astronaut aboard the space shuttle may have to push a piece of debris overboard so that it can be used as target practice for the lasers

within this zone, according to Dr Richard Crowther.

It would take two years and between \$50 million and \$100 million to perform such a clearing operation, the cost of shielding one space shuttle from particles between one and two centimetres long. Orion scientists have also proposed a more expensive three-

year strategy to clear all debris beneath an altitude of 1,500 km.

The US Air Force Space Command are seeking a site in a desert to set up this facility. Scientists are now looking for a low cost way of trying the idea out. One suggestion is to get an astronaut aboard the space shuttle to push a piece of mock debris overboard. The debris

would be wired so that it could be monitored on the ground, and used for target practice. Should the project be given final approval it will probably be brought under the auspices of the United Nations. Dr Campbell says: "After all, space debris has no respect for international borders. Every spacefaring nation is under threat."

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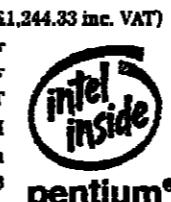
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HOW does the brain put together disparate pieces of information? Imagine a tennis ball flying towards you. Different parts of the brain analyse its colour, shape and speed, which are integrated to create the whole picture in a process called "binding".

The assumption for some time has been that far-flung nerve cells communicate through the beat of a tom-tom, keeping in step with one another by way of a 40 cycles per second rhythm that permeates the brain. Last year Miles Whittington at Imperial College, Roger Traub at IBM and Professor John Jeffreys at Birmingham University showed that the oscillations come in fact, from a network of so-called inhibitory neurons, which control the brain's main working parts, the pyramidal neurons.

Now the team has gone a stage further. In *Nature*, they report that they have found a

mechanism which will explain the binding problem. Dr Traub added the pyramidal cells to his computer model of the brain, and then found that the inhibitory neurons began firing in a double rhythm.

This, they believe, is the way in which remote parts of the brain are made to work in time with each other. The time lag of the second beat in the doublet matches up with the distance the signals need to travel to reach the next set of neurons that are dealing with the same problem. The doublets not only explain synchronisation, but also led to other predictions which were duly confirmed.

"This is how theoretical and experimental science should work together" says Professor Jeffreys. "Roger Traub's computer models are based on real experimental data, and may predict what we can test. In this case it has worked out better than we dared hope."

Proteins quick on the fold

 PROTEINS are long strings of amino acids that fold and twist like spaghetti to form a complex three-dimensional structure. The process is critical: brain diseases like BSE and CJD are caused by the prion protein in the brain folding in an abnormal way.

Now scientists at the US National Institutes of Health have calculated how long it takes a protein to fold. The answer is about a millionth of a second, they report in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. They reached this conclusion by unfolding a protein called cytochrome c and then observing, using very short time-limited spectroscopy, how long it took to form loops again.

Fossil bird is grounded

 The new fossil bird found in China and reported in *The Times* ten days ago turns out to be feathered, but not a flyer. *Sinosauropelta prima*, the name given to it by Ji Qiang of the Chinese Geological Museum, is about half a metre long, and has a back covered in downy feathers.

Dating of the sediments where it was found shows it to be 120 million years old, not quite as old as the first bird, *Archaeopteryx*. The find backs the idea that birds are the descendants of dinosaurs, and that dinosaurs were warm-blooded, developing feathers to keep them warm. Only later did the feathers prove an effective means of taking to the air.

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■ THEATRE

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OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ FILM

Sporting mad: Robert De Niro goes into psychopath mode in the new Hollywood thriller *The Fan*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

Victorian under the microscope: a new biography examines the scandalous life of George Eliot
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

Thomas Allen stars as history's great amoral lover, in a Covent Garden revival of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

CINEMA: Geoff Brown finds the huge and varied London Film Festival has something for everyone

The gems amid the clinker

There simply is not enough exciting, creative cinema to go round the multiplying festivals of the present." The quotation comes from Dilys Powell in *Festival Fever*. The present she writes about is 1958, one year after she and *The Sunday Times* had helped the British Film Institute to organise the first London Film Festival: a slender, decorous event of 16 films.

What would the dear lady think about this year's 40th edition? The features add up to about 200. There are also 12 programmes of shorts, and staged interviews with luminaries as varied as David Cronenberg, director of the repellent *Crash*, Harry Belafonte, and Eric Ambler, thriller writer supreme. And if festivals were multiplying fast in the Fifties, today the number has reached plague proportions. During London's celluloid junket from November 7 to 24, the balloon also goes up in Salónica, Stockholm, Birmingham, Honolulu, Amiens, Lübeck, Taipai, Buenos Aires, Sarasota, Turin, and other places too numerous and bizarre to list. Every town council in the world, it seems, wants to bask in cinema's glory.

Luckily, the size of the London audience has increased with the number of films. Ten years ago, the audience admission figure was about 60,000; last year it topped 100,000. But there is one obvious problem with this celluloid explosion: No one year produces 200 excellent films; and inevitably there are a few clinkers that should be strenuously avoided. So, do not see Alex Cox's *The Winter*, a botched comedy drama set in Las Vegas. I would also give a wide berth to *CrimeTime*, a nasty thriller displaying none of the finesse

that its director, George Sluizer, brought to *The Vanishing*.

But you will also find a handful of gems that might never otherwise get a shop window in Britain were it not for the festival's attention. Consider, for instance, *Village of Dreams* (November 11), by Higashi Yoichi, a Japanese director unknown in the West. The subject is the rural childhood of real-life identical twins (now successful picture-book artists in their 50s). This could easily have been a footling exercise in nostalgia, but he stops the rot by playing up the magical connections between the twins and the natural world, and drawing a sly portrait of post-war Japanese society. The film first surfaced at the end of this year's Berlin festival, when many people were too tired to take notice; perhaps London can give it a boost.

Powell also picked out another long-prevailing problem

for the festival organiser: "Your programmes are excessively melancholy in tone; the screen, at the end of each film, is piled with corpses." Cinema's corpse count now is higher than ever, but *Village of Dreams* is one film that leaves you wreathed in smiles. If your cockles need warming, you should also try the breezy comedy of student love from Australian director Emma-Kate Croghan, *Love and Other Catastrophes* (November 18), or Jan Sverak's *Kolya* (November 8), the lolling tale of a Czech musician, a determined bachelor, left to cope with a five-year-old Russian boy. Spry performances and sharp observations about Prague in 1989, year of the Velvet Revolution, keep undie sentiment at bay: the result is the first Czech film in years with enough universal appeal to travel abroad successfully.

Yes over her decade as director of the festival, Sheila Whitaker has managed a



Andrej Chalimon plays a five-year-old Russian boy in the Czech film, *Kolya*, set during Prague's Velvet Revolution

Powell, I suspect, would approve of these films. But other aspects of this year's festival would probably produce a frown. When the festival phenomenon took hold in the late Forties and Fifties, the spirit of international brotherhood was in the air: people looked to cinema to open windows on to different countries and cultures. Now so many films only give a distorted image of one country, America.

Like every big festival concerned about box-office takings, London acknowledges Hollywood's dominance. Both the opening and closing films are American: *The First Wife Club*, an actor-driven comedy with Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton; and Bob Rafelson's thriller *Blood & Wine*, featuring Jack Palance. Throughout the festival, at the Odeon West End in Leicester Square, mainstream product and the more glamorous independent offerings will play.

Yet over her decade as

director of the festival, Sheila Whitaker has managed a

skillful balancing act between the commercial outlook of her BFI bosses and her instincts for championing cinema's neglected corners: so skillful that it is a matter of deep regret that she will shortly leave her job, victim of the seismic eruptions shaking the BFI.

Luckily, her last festival selection contains enough items from around the world to satisfy the most discerning viewer. The French contingent, although small, is particularly strong. If your taste runs to costumed elegance and barbed wit, choose Patrice Leconte's *Ridicule* (November 14), a comedy set in the Versailles of Louis XVI, with Fanny Ardant whirling her fan as a predatory countess who snares a provincial engineer with a drainage plan.

If you prefer cinema stripped of artifice, Claire Denis's *Nenette and Boni* (November 22) should satisfy: her camera darts about Marseilles, keeping pace with the footloose characters — a teenage brother and sister, and a baker's sexy wife. Quirky fare is offered by Raoul Ruiz, a prolific maker of puzzle pictures who deserves a large audience for *Three Lives and Only One Death* (November 10 and 11), a dashing cinematic split personality comedy featuring Marcello Mastroianni. And do not forget *Microcosmos* (November 17), a film that lifts natural history into the spheres of the lyrical and surreal with its close look at dung beetles, spiders and ladybirds doing their daily business.

Among the American independents, Mary Harron's brilliant *I Shot Andy Warhol* (November 11) is an obvious attraction: although you would be more enterprising if you plumped for titles without a British distributor, like Greg Motolla's endearing comedy

about family strife, *The Daytrippers* (November 23), or *Big Night* (November 21 and 24), a small delight about an Italian restaurant, directed by actors Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott.

Cinema's past is not forgotten. You can watch the chandeliers of the Paris Opera crash to the floor in *The Phantom of the Opera* (November 22), the silent version, with Lon Chaney, restored with Technicolor sequences. You can rediscover Murnau's *Faust* and discover an unknown French

delight, *Minuet* ... *Place Pigalle*. You can also watch restored prints of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Giant*: although you should really have better things to do. The festival's size and range may be bewildering, but it does give punters of all hues a genuine choice.

• The London Film Festival runs from November 7-24, centred at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-240 1122). NFT members can book now; booking for the public opens on November 2.

Thrill to the rhythm

In the aftermath of their No 1 hit, *Setting Sun*, featuring the voice and words of Noel Gallagher, the Chemical Brothers are top dogs of the flourishing dance music scene. Since graduating with honours from Manchester University in 1992, the "brothers" Ed Simons and Tom Rowlands have become ranking DJs on the club and festival circuit, renowned both for their remixing work with rock acts such as the Charlatans and Manic Street Preachers and for their own hardcore dance records, including last year's pivotal debut album, *Exit Planet Dust*.

THE BLITZ
The Chemical Brothers
Brixton Academy



Top dogs among DJs

Essentially a pair of raw generation boffins, they make reluctant celebrities. Any temptation to modify their show to cater for the more mainstream tastes of their newer fans was vigorously resisted. When they eventually played *Setting Sun* in the small hours of Sunday, it was a version reduced to its instrumental core, with Gallagher's heavily treated vocal being cut up into repeating fragments and ignominiously bounced around the mix like a pinball.

That, of course, is the prerogative of the modern DJ, whose role is unrecognisable from the days when the job entailed merely spinning the discs. Lurking behind an encampment of electronic equipment and saying nothing, the Brothers jerked and jiggled around like magicians performing mysterious rites, as they spun the tracks, mixed the beats, triggered the barrages

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Matthew Parris



Dunblane and Philip Lawrence's murder should not lower the hurdles for changes in the law

Nobody who read Frances Lawrence's essay last Monday can regret that she wrote it or that *The Times* published it. Many must have wondered how it would possibly affect her loss to feel such kindness and retain such a civilising tentativeness in her conclusions. Mrs Lawrence's essay was also exceedingly well written.

Few who have seen interviews with the bereaved Dunblane parents, or heard the spokesman of their Snowdrop campaign, Ann Pearson, can be unmoved by the appeal for action that their loss has inspired.

So how can I put this? How to express without drawing back from the four sentences I have just written, that unarticulated, hesitant yet insistent "But" which in recent days has formed in the corners of the minds of millions more people than politicians, broadcasters and editors yet appreciate?

On Channel 4 News on Friday night, two men were interviewed about the Government's new sentencing proposals. One was the chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform, and the other was a man whose sister had been raped and murdered. The latter wanted stiffer sentences and felt passionate about this from his own experience. The man from the Howard League was invited to express doubts and had a powerful case, but confronted by the other's obvious distress, he was hopelessly undermined in putting it.

Obliged to preface his argument with protestations of sympathy, his soundbite was virtually over before he could begin.

Blessed are those who suffer. From the dawn of man, and pace Nietzsche, suffering has conferred status. Suffering invites sympathy and commands respect. Suffering raises the sufferer above everyday reproach and forbids the sneer or gibe. Suffering brooks no contradiction. It confers upon the sufferer a dignity, and a kind of authority, elevating her or him above reproach. The authority of martyrdom has always commanded an instinctive respect, attention and sympathy. But is that adequate basis for a political platform?

All who have lobbied the British press for any principled cause will confirm that on hearing the argument, the media man's reply is "Fine, now where's your victim? We need two — or if possible three — with photographs."

Thus it has come to pass, within what seems no longer than weeks, that a nation among whom it was thought obsessive to argue for a ban on all handguns has become a nation where to argue for anything less than an absolute ban sounds surreal and unconvincing. A nation of whom, formerly, only a handful was seriously suggesting a

Legislation should never be used to serve the purpose of a memorial — to anyone

ties. It would be a dreadful memorial to her late husband (in whose thinking the idea of moral choice seems to have been important) if his death were to become a totem for those who urge new forms of state coercion.

Legislation should never serve the purpose of a memorial — to anyone. Nor should it be proposed or commended as a comfort to the bereaved. If the bereaved come to us with proposals for legislation, our respect for their suffering should never be translated into uncritical respect for their proposals. If the bereaved send us spokesmen — such as Ann Pearson for the Dunblane parents — they should expect to be examined as every lobbyist, amateur or professional, is examined: who are they? What's their background? What undeclared aims, if any, might their campaign have?

A wave of insecurity and indignation seems to me to be upon us, and our politicians will surf it. For my part I go into a darkened room and quietly ask myself, again and again, which of the proposals I am now hearing could have recommended themselves by reason alone, before Philip Lawrence's murder and before Dunblane. For those two horrors were not the first of their kind and they will not be the last; and they teach us nothing we ought not already to have known.

The great philosopher's prescription for a liberal education does not include state intervention

In the mid 1680s, John Locke, the great philosopher of English liberalism, was in exile in Holland, a refugee from the regime of King James II. He was able to return to England only after 1688, when William of Orange brought in the Whig revolution. While Locke was in Holland he wrote letters to a West Country friend, Edward Clarke, to advise him on the education of his infant son. These were published as a book, *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*, in 1693. Three hundred years later, his thoughts still make a valid contribution to the education debate.

When he was at Oxford, Locke trained as a physician, and he had practised as a doctor. He therefore starts with his prescription for building up a child's health. "A sound mind and a sound body is a short but full description of a happy state in this world." As a doctor, he was relatively austere. Children, he thought, should be accustomed to the English climate, should spend plenty of time in the open air, should not be over-dressed, should be bathed in cold water and should be given a relatively spare diet. He thought that children should not be given too much meat, never more than once a day. "For breakfast and supper, milk, milk-pottage, water-gruel, flummery, only that they be plain and very sparingly seasoned with sugar, or rather none at all... A good piece of well made and well baked brown bread, sometimes with and sometimes without butter and cheese, would often be the best breakfast."

No strong drink, no melons or peaches, but plenty of strawberries, cherries, gooseberries and currants, provided they are ripe and especially plenty of apples and pears. No sweetmeats. As much sleep as children want, but a habit of early rising is to be encouraged. A hard bed, for being buried every night in feathers melts and dissolves the body, is often the cause of weakness, and the forerunner of an early grave".

"One thing more there is which has

Willingly to school with John Locke

a great influence upon the health, and that is going to stool regularly." He believed in forming a habit of a stool every day before breakfast. He did not believe children should ever be given medicine, except when seriously ill. "And thus," Locke writes, "I have done with what concerns the body and health, which reduces itself to these few and observable rules. Plenty of open air, exercise and sleep; plain diet, no wine or strong drink, and very little or no physic; not too warm and straight clothing; especially the head and feet kept cold, and the feet often used to cold water, and exposed to wet."

Apart from the wet feet that all sounds very healthy, as good a regime for children's health as any modern doctor would suggest. It is remarkable how much further the science of medicine has advanced in the cure of disease than in the maintenance of health.

His views on the psychology of education often sound equally modern. He felt that children should be guided by praise and blame, rather than by beating or even severe scolding. He thought that good habits should be formed early, and that they worked where rules did not. "For all their innocent folly, playing and childish actions are to be left perfectly free and unrestrained... this gamesome humour, which is wisely adapted by nature to their age and temper, should rather be encouraged, to keep up their spirits, and improve their strength and health, than curbed or restrained. And the chief art is to make all they have to do, sport and play too."

Locke recognises the need to establish authority, but believes in a friendly relationship between parents and child. "For the time must come, when they will be past the rod and correction, and then, if the love of you make them not obedient and dutiful, if the love of virtue and reputation keep them not in laudible courses, I ask, what hold will you have upon them to turn them to it?"

Manners, he considered, should be taught by example, not by rules, but children should be taught to dance as

of the company at school, and were liable to be savagely beaten by blockhead schoolmasters as well. These were common complaints in the 17th century, though Locke seems to have enjoyed his own education at Westminster under the great Busby. He emphasised the difference of temperament in different children, and the need to adjust educational disciplines to the individual. He also thought that children have a natural love of liberty, and that "they love to be treated as rational creatures sooner than is imagined. 'Tis a pride that should be cherished in them, and, as much as can be, made the greatest instrument to turn them by."

Parental authority, restraint, praise and blame, example, encouragement in good habits, play, liberty, friendship between parents and children, were Locke's prescription for creating the independent adults he thought would be the good citizens of the future. He was opposed to the formation of bad habits; even little children should not be allowed to get their own way by crying, querulousness, bullying or repeated demands. He thought religion was essential. He believed that children should "very early" be given a true idea of God, be encouraged to "love and reverence this Supreme Being", and that they should be taught to pray.

The academic education he recommended was certainly thorough, and it too started very early. "When he can talk, 'tis time he should begin to read... as soon as he can speak English, 'tis time for him to learn

French... when he can speak and read French well, which in this method is usually in a year or two, he should proceed to Latin... only care is to be taken that he do not forget to read English, which may be preserved by his mother, or somebody else, hearing him read some chosen part of the scripture, or other English book, every day."

Later on the pupil will study geography, astronomy, chronology, anatomy, history, natural science, physics (including Isaac Newton's recently published *Principia*) and geometry — but not abstract logic or metaphysics, "which are fitter to amuse than inform the understanding". The pupil will also study commercial accountancy, and some mechanical skill, such as painting, gardening, joinery or even goldsmithing. He is not required to study music. "It wastes so much of a young man's time to gain but a moderate skill in it, and engages often in such odd company that many think it much better spared." Locke particularly emphasised the importance of good spoken and written English. "Let him read those things that are well writ in English, to perfect his style in the purity of our language."

John Locke does refer to the education of girls, but only briefly: the original letters were written about the upbringing of a particular boy. His educational principles, however, apply to both sexes, though he would have found it necessary to warn girls against learning to fence, because it can lead to over-confident duals. His great aim was to use the methods of reason, friendliness and encouragement to produce independent adults capable of virtue and wisdom, and with a body of knowledge. He thought parents were more likely to achieve that than schools. The great difference between the 1690s and the 1990s is that Locke nowhere mentions the role of the State. It would not have occurred to him that we might expect prime ministers to teach virtue to our children.

William Rees-Mogg

soon as they are able. Like us, Locke was worried by the depravity of the age, and was not sure what to do about it. "I wish that those who complain of the great decay of Christian piety and virtue everywhere, and of learning an acquired improvements in the gentry of this generation, would consider how to retrieve them in the next. This I am sure, that if the foundation of it be not laid in the education and principling of the youth, all other endeavours will be vain." We worry just as much as Locke about the "principling of the youth".

Locke preferred private to public education, an option which hardly exists nowadays. He thought that boys caught vices from the contagion

dads". Kerry responds by accusing Weld of favouring cuts in Medicare and higher education support.

This comes back to a familiar dilemma: many, if not most, voters are now sceptical about government in theory and oppose higher taxes, but strongly support specific programmes that do, or could, benefit them. Welfare in general is unpopular in America, like scrongeurs in Britain. Mr Clinton exploited this mood and protected his political flank when he signed legislation ending automatic benefits for families with children and shifting the programmes to the states. But this did not touch the far larger Medicare and Medicaid health budgets or social security pensions for the elderly.

Mr Clinton, and hundreds of Democratic candidates, are presenting themselves as defenders of these popular programmes and the Republicans as "Gingrich extremists" wanting to cut them. In reality, both Republicans and Democrats have urged steeper increases in Medicare. The difference is not over absolute cuts but over relative rates of growth. A defensive Dole campaign ad even boasts that under his plan government will still grow — by 14 per cent — to protect Medicare and social security. Of course, whichever party wins, Congress will face the looming financial problems of Medicare and social security.

This year's reaction against the Gingrich revolution has shown the people's resistance to changes in the role of government that affect them personally. What Mr Clinton and many Democrats have done is position themselves skilfully between the unpopularity of government in general and the popularity of some programmes in particular. By contrast, Mr Dole and many Republicans are being blamed for unpopular proposals. And their denial of any such threat is widely seen as incompatible with their 15 per cent tax cut promise. This year's American elections demonstrate — like the pre-campaigning already under way in Britain — that the public and politicians are told over the role of government. They want both to be slim and to eat their cake — to have extensive social programmes without higher taxes.

But how small a government?

Peter Riddell
says America's
course will be
set by Congress,
not by Clinton

The future direction of American politics will be determined far more by the close-fought and still unpredictable battle for control of Congress on November 5 than by the seemingly inevitable victory of President Bill Clinton. At stake is the attempt to rein back and redefine government. No one really disputes Mr Clinton's comment earlier this year that "the era of big government is over". But the congressional elections have underlined the ambivalence among American voters, and politicians, about what government should do.

My most striking impression from a few days immersed in the whirl and balcony that make up American elections is that the presidential contest has become almost a sideshow. It is essentially a verdict on the strength of the economy and on Bob Dole's inept campaign. In a tragic end to a distinguished career, Mr Dole is reduced to complaining about the unfairness of it all. It is unfair. Mr Clinton is deeply flawed. Some very dubious things have happened in the White House. But he is a brilliant candidate, a roguish charmer with a seldom surpassed skill in electoral positioning. Yet, the one-sidedness of the contest has reduced its significance. Mr Clinton has played safe, combining fine-sounding but vacuous phrases about "a bridge to the 21st century" with a series of micro-promises such as calling for school uniforms and an expansion of the Internet. Sounds familiar?

Mr Clinton has no clear strategy for a second term. What he does will be largely defined by which party controls Congress, just as it has been since 1992. His own views have to be channelled through Congress. If he



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Democrats regain control of one or both the Houses they lost in 1994, it will only be by a whisker, and there will be no return to the era of big government activism. Despite the disappearance of many centrist Democrats, the liberal-left leadership still bears the scars of the 1994 rout, and is fully aware of voters' doubts about government. But the labour unions would seek a return on their huge financial support, and there would be more limited initiatives by government in, for example, education. If the Republicans retain control, Mr Clinton will have to stick to his centrist course of the past 18 months, accepting cuts on social programmes and being wary of new projects.

With the Baseball World Series over (won on Saturday by the New York Yankees), the main focus now is on the congressional races especially

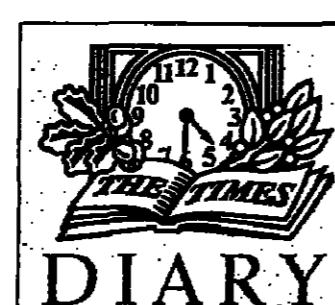
seen as extreme and threatening. The current mood is best expressed by the catchy soundbites, especially 15 or 20-second paid adverts which pepper prime-time television. These are the new language of politics. Glib and dishonest they may be, but they represent the carefully market-tested messages which politicians believe affect voters. Many are negative: bizarrely so in the case of one Republican ad claiming that the Democrats had visited a Caribbean "nude" club. Most of these "spots" focus on taxes and spending. In the Massachusetts Senate race, Republican William Weld's ads contrast Democratic incumbent John Kerry's willingness to live rent-free in a flat lent by a lobbyist with his vote for higher taxes for retirees. Mr Weld portrays himself as favouring tax cuts and a "crackdown on deadbeat

pensioners, foulards even, and are a favourite of the wealthy — compare Sir James Goldsmith, or the riper vintage such as Lord Deedes. They also hint at the Windsor knot, which is seen by moderns as a rather fussy, non-U business. Downing Street's dressers declined to comment.

• One Catholic definitely not joining in Cardinal Thomas Winning's criticism of Tony Blair's stance on abortion is the Rev John Boland, priest at Cherie Blair's church, St Joan of Arc's in Highgate, north London. Boland, who administered the Sacrament to Mr Blair earlier this year when the Labour leader was rumoured to be toying with the idea of a leap to Rome, has always maintained a confessional silence about his most famous congregants. Now is no exception. Asked if he agreed with Cardinal Winning and his statement of the official Catholic position, Boland, with some suitable angelic music playing in the background, said: "I have nothing to say on the matter."

Broad loose knots speak of ex-

House whine



THOUGH once bitten, the Royal Opera House seems not in the slightest bit shy of prying television cameras. The makers of *The House*, the BBC's tantrums-and-tutus exposé, have asked for permission to make another episode, an epilogue, before the House closes for two years of renovation. Astonishingly, the request is under consideration.

To recap, the six-episode series showed the general director, Jeremy Isaacs, squirming before his governors, nervously running his hands through his lank mid-life-crisis length hair, while general manager Keith "Hitman" Cooper was seen ruthlessly scything through waste and inefficiency. Troupes of singers, dancers and backstage hands had their darker moments disbursed for the cameras, and an atmosphere of fear, backstabbing and egomaniacal impasse was revealed to the nation.

Unsurprisingly, the Opera House is stalling on precisely how much access it will give the

disciplined souls who have held onto their lucrative jobs in the City, tax or business and sacrificed their personal lives to attend the extra rugby training now required. They are known as Dings: double-income, no girlfriend.

Cape knights

AS THEIR country slides into a welter of crime and social breakdown, at least Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu can cheer themselves up by thinking of the forthcoming visit from the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. The Gloucesters will soon be in South Africa to make the President and the former archbishop both Knights of the Order of St John. The Duke is the order's Grand Prior.

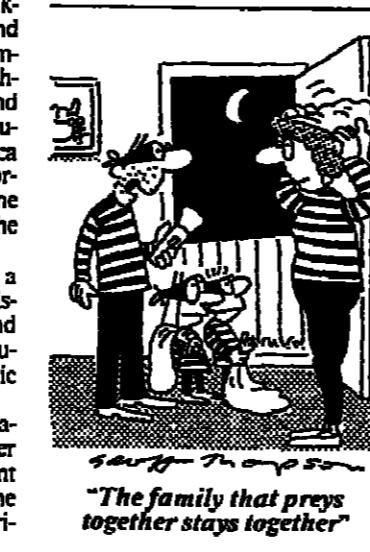
The Knights of St John are a stern bunch of professing Christians, prone to good works and prayer, with the St John Ambulance perhaps their most public activity.

Mandela and Tutu could probably do with a little of what the order promised in its mission statement of 1987, "a Christian answer to the problems of a troubled and materi-

alistic world". Further details of their investiture are being kept secret for reasons of security.

Knock down

CONSOLATION for all those who have suffered from negative equity: even a professional bricks-and-mortar man like Sir Geoffroy Leigh, the chairman of Allied



"The family that preys together stays together"

London Properties, has had his problems. He has just sold his house for nearly £5 million less than he first demanded.

It's a decent enough billet, high up in Hampstead, a Georgian pile with a walled garden. Three or four years ago, Leigh, who has made considerable donations to the Conservative Party, put it up for sale at an enormous asking price of £9 million. No takers. Until now.

From across the Channel, Monsieur Bernard Arnault, the velvetsmooth chairman of Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy, stepped in with an offer nearer £4 million. Leigh was more than ready to bring down the hammer: sold to the Frenchman with the natty luggage.

Tied up

ONLY THE keenest of Major-watchers will have noticed developments beneath the prime ministerial chin. They will confirm, however, that the Prime Minister's tie knots have been growing ever thicker. His appearances since the party conference have seen a new breadth of knot. Whether this is a sign of confidence or insecurity di-

vides silks, foulards even, and are a favourite of the wealthy — compare Sir James Goldsmith, or the riper vintage such as Lord Deedes. They also hint at the Windsor knot, which is seen by moderns as a rather fussy, non-U business. Downing Street's dressers declined to comment.

According to the major, the latest knot is a Special Order. For a sudden, he has been having trouble with the knot. The Major's dressers are trying to fix it. They are describing it as "dreadful".

Next stop the cravat?

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FRENCH MISCONNECTION

Europe cannot outbid America for influence in the Middle East

Forty years after the Anglo-French humiliation over Suez established the United States as the determining Western power in the Middle East, President Jacques Chirac is pushing for a greater French — and by extension, European Union — role in the region. As he elbowed his way, at times literally, past the complexities of Arab-Israeli politics this month, M Chirac tried to give the impression that France's activism arises from its concern that the "peace process" is dying at the hands of Israel's Prime Minister.

France's insistent shuttle diplomacy in the Israel-Lebanon crisis last April demonstrates that this is far from being the case. The Labour Government of Shimon Peres was still in office at the time — and no happier with what Israel and America saw as counter-productive French meddling than Binyamin Netanyahu has been. M Chirac's real objective is to reinforce France's historical ties with the Arab world, beginning with Lebanon and Syria, which he believes were neglected by François Mitterrand.

That is a legitimate national objective, and not only because of the reliance of France's ailing defence industry on Middle Eastern arms markets. With its immigrant population from the Maghreb, Paris has every reason to treat the southern rim of the Mediterranean as its near neighbour. France is vulnerable to Middle-Eastern turmoil — as Algeria's Islamists emphasized through their bombing campaign in Paris.

But it was pointlessly provocative of M Chirac to heap praise in Damascus on President Assad, of all people, for his "vision and lofty sense of Syria's responsibilities" while criticising American "mismanagement" of Middle Eastern politics in the same breath. Diplomacy has never been subject to the physician's ethical requirement to "do no harm" and it is part of the Gaullist legacy that all French politicians believe that American clumsiness requires the counter-weight of European sophistication.

M Chirac's performance on this tour was hardly an advertisement for Old World

subtlety. The Arabs loved it, as he intended. But resistance in Israel and Washington to French demands for an EU seat at the Arab-Israel negotiating table has been reinforced. The US State Department says flatly that America is the only third party at the Tabia and Elat talks between Israel and the Palestinians, that "it is going to stay that way" and that the last thing the parties need is a "mini-UN around the table".

France's colleagues in the EU have not been happy either. Dick Spring's trip to the Middle East was a heavy hint that it is the Irish presidency, not France, that ought to be speaking for the Union. But at the informal Dublin summit, the EU settled for smothering French ambitions with love. They agreed to appoint a special EU envoy to the Middle East — a decision that so irritated Warren Christopher that he took the extraordinary step of writing to EU foreign ministers requesting them, at this "delicate point", to leave Arab-Israel negotiations well alone.

Today in Luxembourg, EU foreign ministers are expected to draw up the envoy's mandate. It is likely to be modest; Mr Spring has made clear in advance that the EU does not "consider it wise" to press French demands for a negotiating role in the peace process. Indeed it is not; for a start, the EU would need a special "internal" envoy of its own to broker an agreed EU position on how best to further Middle Eastern peace. It should rest content with its complementary role, not least as provider of 80 per cent of international aid to the Palestinian National Authority.

Israel fears diplomatic isolation and is sensitive to European criticisms. When he in turn visits the region this week, Malcolm Rifkind will, more tactfully than the French president, press Mr Netanyahu to make good his promise to M Chirac that Israel will soon produce its blueprint for a "definitive settlement". But for the Arabs as well as Israel, America, the ultimate guarantor of Israel's security, is the power that counts. When Europeans are tempted to think otherwise, they should remember Suez.

CRADLE TO GRAVE

War memorials and the morality debate

The spectacle of the great and good squabbling about proposed codes of moral guidance for schoolchildren is an unedifying aspect of the debate on raising standards of behaviour begun in this newspaper by Frances Lawrence. There is everything to be said for trying to define a "core" of moral values which should be taught in schools, but it seems that every code has undesirable consequences. It seems that every new move will quickly become a weapon in a political shouting-match between Opposition, the Government and teachers. It is doubtful if Mrs Shepherd would have spoken up so fast about the failure of curriculum advisers to recognise marriage if an election had not been upon us.

Ethics and morality have lent themselves to codification since the Ten Commandments but few societies can agree on a single framework. Most modern societies allow several strands of religious belief to co-exist and all may share certain values. Civic values and spiritual beliefs overlap but are not the same. They need careful interaction over time. To overcome their reluctance to promote marriage explicitly, the curriculum designers might reflect that if the divorce rate is ever to fall in this country, children brought up by single parents will have to be part of that shift. They will be given the guidance to choose to break the pattern of the past.

National religious and political leaders wielding codes, laws and manifestoes can

only set frameworks or inspire. There can be few better test cases of real value than the war memorials at which the nation will be commemorating its dead in a fortnight.

Despite the disturbing report on page 7, neglect and damage to memorials is not widespread and there are crimes worse than scrawling obscene graffiti. But it is exactly because policemen cannot guard every war memorial and because surrounding them with fences would destroy their purpose that they make a good vehicle for the expression of a community's determination to care for its own signposts to the past. Let those who wish to protect memorials from damage stop worrying away at public authorities for money. Find a local school to adopt each memorial at risk. Take a leaf from the book of the scheme now taking off across the EU under which local schools adopt and nurture neglected historical monuments in their area. Let schoolchildren learn a little of their 20th-century history from the statues, crosses and tablets which embed two terrible conflicts in the history of a town or village.

The Heroes' Shrine at Aldershot has been vandalised. The local council responsible is considering a "park watch" scheme and contemplating repairs. Nothing would galvanise the councillors faster than to be beaten to the job by some of Aldershot's schoolchildren. The town, after all, owes the Army a great deal and there is a simple, inexpensive and uncomplicated way to repay the debt.

THE FIRST SHIPWRECK

Archaeologists from Texas shake hands with the Argonauts

The world's oldest shipwreck is a giant step for the imagination as well as for history. Marine archaeologists at the University of Texas will be recording the science from the Uluburun wreck for years. Its cargo of gold from Egypt, elephant tusks and ostrich eggs from Africa, copper from the land of the Hittites, and man's first gold ingots may read like a bill of lading compiled by a poet. And it is certainly more valuable than the exemplary contemporary objects selected by just fairy stories. Myth dramatises psychological, religious and prehistoric truths. For example, it says that Jason sailed with the Argonauts to fetch the Golden Fleece from Colchis, the modern Georgia. Unromantic materialists explain his golden fleece as a mythification of sheepskins spread across river mouths at the eastern end of the known world, to catch the gold dust swept down from the mountains of the Caucasus.

According to the best archaeology at present this was not a trading ship of early merchant adventurers sailing for speculative gain, but a shipload of goods on special order for one of the rulers from the first golden age of Greece. Schliemann may have been literally mistaken about the name of the king in exclaiming that he had gazed upon the face of Agamemnon in the Mycenaean death-mask. But his vision of the grandeur and organisation of a highly controlled society in Greek cities in the Bronze Age has steadily been proved right ever since. The first shipwreck adds brilliant detail to his picture.

Firewood found on the ship can be dated by dendrochronology to 1327 BC. Carbon-dating suggests that it sank in 1316, give or take two years. So, as with the eruption on Thera (Santorini), modern science is uncovering with remarkable precision the dark ages at the beginning of European history.

Only a few generations after the prehistoric ship sank, legend says that the Greeks were besieging Troy. And the Homeric poets were not born to sing their legend for many centuries. The Uluburun wreck, however, with its luxury imports vividly supports Homer's accounts of just such a hierarchical, highly organised civilisation.

There has often been more to myth than just fairy stories. Myth dramatises psychological, religious and prehistoric truths. For example, it says that Jason sailed with the Argonauts to fetch the Golden Fleece from Colchis, the modern Georgia. Unromantic materialists explain his golden fleece as a mythification of sheepskins spread across river mouths at the eastern end of the known world, to catch the gold dust swept down from the mountains of the Caucasus.

So at the Uluburun wreck modern science meets ancient myths and discovers their background in history. It confirms the basic attraction of gold and luxury as lures for humans. That has not weakened over 30 centuries. It shows the founders of Western civilisation in an organised society long before the poets sang and historians wrote about them. The wish to discover, to go where no man has gone before, to trade, to live in society is what distinguishes man from the other animals. That instinct is still strong, though in our well-sailed world voyages of discovery have to be in the laboratory as well as by sea. But the old shipwreck shows that the questing and organising instincts are as old as man.

كتاب من الأرض

Concerted action on fishing crisis

From the European Commissioner for Fisheries

Sir, I am grateful to *The Times* for keeping alive a serious debate on the future of European fisheries (leading article, October 17); the crisis facing the fishing industry is indeed a serious issue.

I can hardly think of a more brilliant and concise diagnosis of the predicament of this sector than your own: "Far too much fish is caught by far too many fishermen with far too few controls." Where our views diverge, however, is on the treatment: my firm belief is that rather than dealing with this crisis from a narrow, nationalistic point of view, concerned action by the countries of Europe is essential.

You suggest instead, like many in the UK, that much could be put right by doing away with so-called "quotahoppers". I dearly wish that it was that simple.

Quota-hoppers exist because British fishermen legitimately sold their boats and licences to foreigners (who have not, consequently, increased the size of the UK fleet).

The British Government is raising the issue at the inter-governmental conference. That is a legitimate path, albeit a long-winding and uncertain one; to pursue a ban on quota-hoppers might seem simple, but implementation may well prove unrealistic, if not outright illegal under Single Market rules.

This is a genuine emergency. The current European fleet is too big and will remain too big even if fishing conditions improve. Reductions of fishing activities through permanent measures are necessary, as they are the only sustainable way for European fishermen to restore long-term economic viability and international competitiveness.

The realistic way forward for the survival of the industry is a generous decommissioning scheme, to help bring about the reductions in activity required — with the British Government playing a full part.

Decommissioning provides an opportunity for the least profitable segment of the fishing fleet to avoid bankruptcy, allowing owners of vessels to recover their capital, which in some cases is likely to be reinvested in local activities. Improved conditions would thus be created for the remaining vessels.

I am glad to notice that the decommissioning scheme is finally under way in the UK, after years of inertia.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA BONINO,
European Commissioner
for Fisheries.
The European Commission,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049, Brussels.
October 23.

EU and the Taliban

From Mr Stewart Wallis

Sir, On Monday, October 28, the European Union Foreign Affairs Council meets in Brussels, just weeks after the Taliban took control of Kabul. With their arrival came the imposition of decrees that seriously threaten the most basic rights of the local population, particularly women.

Oxfam urges foreign ministers attending the Brussels meeting to put the issue of Afghanistan firmly on the agenda and respond to the calls from Emma Bonino, the EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, for international condemnation of Taliban's treatment of women. Through a joint statement the EU must urge the new Taliban authorities in Kabul to respect the UN Declaration on Human Rights, with particular reference to women.

To reinforce this concern, respect for internationally agreed human rights standards must be demanded as a condition upon which future EU aid will be allocated.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART WALLIS
(Director, International Division),
Oxfam UK and Ireland,
274 Banbury Road, Oxford.
October 23.

Britain and Germany

From Dr N. M. Goldsmith

Sir, Nicholas Henderson (letter, October 24) is quite right to say that the means adopted to achieve their ends by Hitler and Kohl are different. Nevertheless it hardly needs pointing out that those ends are the same, namely a "closely integrated Europe".

Now is the comparison Alan Clark makes between Major and Chamberlain (article, October 15) anything less than inspired. In both men you see the same instinct to sit on the fence and make concessions to their opponents. You do not have to be "beasty to the Germans" to fear the consequences of Kohl's policies regarding integration.

As I heard one of his fellow countrymen say recently, the case for maintaining the sovereignty of all the nations in the European Community is very strong. To do otherwise is fraught with danger, not least the danger of war. No one who believes that needs to play the chauvinist card.

Yours sincerely,
N. GOLDSMITH,
1 Cumberland Gardens,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
October 24.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Problems of teaching at The Ridings

From the General Secretary of NASUWT

Sir, Your leading article of October 23, "Failing teachers", reads oddly against the report on The Ridings School in Halifax elsewhere in the newspaper.

Your reporters rightly identified several key factors that contributed significantly to the school's problems.

These included the inadequately re-

sourced merger of two schools and the rival gang culture brought to the new school by many youngsters: the selection policy of neighbouring schools which, whether right or wrong, had the inevitable effect of compelling the under-subscribed Ridings School to accommodate far more than its fair share of difficult pupils.

The appeals system sent several vi-

lent and disruptive pupils back into

the school, against the considered

judgment of the entire teaching staff and the governing body. It is precisely

that kind of development that leads to

a breakdown in school discipline be-

cause it allows, as you say, "a few

ring-leaders to recruit others into a re-

bellious clique".

Consequently, your argument that

the high percentage of pupils with be-

havioural difficulties "suggests that

the authority which usually con-

strains the behaviour of gang follow-

ers rather than leaders has evaporated.

In other words, the teachers are as

much to blame as the adolescents" is

wrong.

My address might suggest that I,

too, am remote from the issues, yet not so.

Between 1990 and 1994 I worked as

a supply teacher in four of the feeder

primary schools for The Ridings — in

one for three months, taking the place

of a 49-year-old having to take early

sickness retirement because of heart

trouble. I know why! That class had

far more than 10 per cent problem

pupils at seven years old. They should

be due to enter The Ridings next year.

I wonder how many of the Ofsted

inspectors will have actually worked

in such a school? I taught in a secondary modern school for over five years

in the Seventies at the time that the

school leaving age was raised. We had

one whole year of pupils who resented

being kept at school another year.

They determined neither they nor

anyone else was going to work in that

year.

Should we expect, or in that case,

demand, experience of that nature of

any fellow human being? Teachers do

not want to teach in such schools sim-

ply to get through the day" — they

need to find ways of helping them

more, rather than criticising them

again.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. S. WIGHT,

Ugadale Farm, Campbeltown, Argyll.

October 23.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. WOODWARD,

Kaarden, High Easter Road,

Leaden Roding, Dunmow, Essex.

October 2



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 26: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended a performance of *Tales of the Arabian Nights* given by the Glassworks Theatre Cambridge at the Cambridge Drama Centre, Covent Garden, Cambridge followed by a dinner at Clay Farm, Cambridge.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 27: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh left Heathrow Airport, London, this evening for the State Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received at the airport by the Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chambord). Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall KC), Mr Asaph

Chatchitchairod (Charge d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Thailand), Sir John Egan (Chief Executive, British Airports Authority) and Sir Colin Marshall (Chairman, British Airways).

The following are in attendance: the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP (Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) and Mrs Rifkind. His Excellency Mr James Hodge (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand) and Mrs Hodge, the Countess of Airlie, the Lady Susan Hussey, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes, Major General Sir Simon Cooper, Mrs Mary Francis, Mr Charles Anson, Surgeon Captain David Swain RN, Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy, Lieutenant Commander Toby Williamson RN, Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis and Mr William Ehrman.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will attend the Royal Variety Performance at the Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, at 7.30pm in aid of the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund.

Prince Edward will open the Royal Marines School of Music HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, at 11.30am.

Latest wills

Kenneth Bedford Brothie, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £433,274 net.

Nan Winifred Dauby, of Newton, Newport, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £906,190 net.

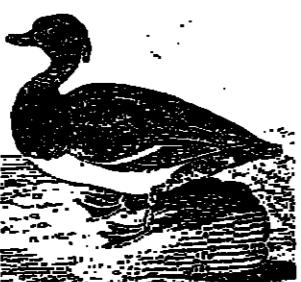
Lady Margaret Douglas-Hamilton, left estate valued at £11,721 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

John Clifford Mansell, of Sutton Scarsdale, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £629,741 net.

VISCOUNTESS PORTAL, of Hungerford, of West Ashling, Winchester, West Sussex, left estate valued at £53,924 net.

David Gwyn Brooks Williams, of Rhyd, Denbighshire, left estate valued at £503,548 net.

Nature notes



The tufted duck

chestnut trees are looking the most naked.

One of the few plants still in bloom is ivy which has tufts of small, yellow-green flowers.

The leaves on the climbing stalks of ivy are the familiar five-pointed ones, but on the flowering twigs the leaves are a simple lance shape.

Bulbous leaves are coming into houses for the warmth.

DJM

Waterbirds keep in close to the bank of a lake or river: their numbers have lately been swelled by many coots and tufted ducks coming in from the continent.

Yellow and brown leaves have been falling fast in the wind and rain, but leaves that are still green are hard to dislodge. Limes and horse-

chestnut trees are looking the most naked.

One of the few plants still in bloom is ivy which has tufts of small, yellow-green flowers.

The leaves on the climbing stalks of ivy are the familiar five-pointed ones, but on the flowering twigs the leaves are a simple lance shape.

Bulbous leaves are coming into houses for the warmth.

DJM

**BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

BIRTHS

BLACK - On October 23rd, to Rebecca (née White) and Andrew, a daughter, Anna.

CARNEY - On 3rd October to Michael and Linda, a son, Honorary British Consul, Cancun, Mexico, a son, Klaus Alexander, a brother and Anna, Stephanie and Alexander.

STONE - On October 6th, to Nicola and Andrew, a son, James, a brother for Wesley.

STRAUSS - On October 25th, to Philippa (née Lazarus) and Paul, a daughter, Anna (née Louise Ruth).

DEATHS

ANDERSON - On October 23 tragically, Kate, aged 26, of Spalding, Lincolnshire, died.

Beloved daughter of George and Sue, wife of Jason and Simon, loving partner of Robin. Funeral at St Edmund's Church, Spalding, Friday 27th October at 1.30pm.

COLESTOE - Peacefully on October 22nd, Kathleen Frances Natalie (Kitty), of Linchmere, Hampshire, a mother, wife and grandmother of Philip, Bello, Belinda and James, and great-grandchildren.

GARRETT - Beloved husband of Ann and John. Private cremation followed by service at St Cuthbert's, Whickham, on November 1st at 2.30pm. Donations, if desired, to The Mammal Protection Trust c/o Ian Steel & Son, Chestnut House, Whickham.

HOGG - Beloved husband of Elizabeth, a son, Michael, a daughter, and grandmother of Philip, Belinda and James, and great-grandchildren.

MORRIS - On October 24th peacefully at home, aged 80. Greatly loved husband of Desires, loving father and grandfather. Funeral at St. John's Church, Wallington, on Friday November 1st at 2.30pm. No flowers, donations to the RNLI c/o David Pidgeon & Son, Travel Business Park, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 3LJ.

WITCHESTER - Peacefully on October 23rd, Kathleen Frances Natalie (Kitty), of Linchmere, Hampshire, a mother, wife and grandmother of Philip, Belinda and James, and great-grandchildren.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Tuck, CBE, criminologist, psychologist and civil servant, died from heart failure on October 20 aged 68. She was born on May 5, 1928.

Mary Tuck was always passionate about decency and justice and about the need for open-mindedness and scepticism – particularly where statistics were involved. She also had humour, tact and kindness, formidable intellect and verbal fluency – all of which made her an irresistible figure in both public and private life. As Head of Research at the Home Office, and in retirement, on the Woolf Inquiry, on Victim Support and on the Parole Board, and as a pundit on radio and television, her contribution was invariably humane and stimulating. She died, characteristically, while preparing to chair a session of the Lord Chancellor's Committee for Legal Education and Conduct.

She was a fascinating combination of serious-minded professionalism and apparent frivolity. She loved clothes, gossip and fun. Intensely literary, she confessed to a puritanical guilt about her huge appetite for romantic fiction, while reading everything else, besides, from Anthony Trollope to Thomas Aquinas. She had a particular fondness for T. S. Eliot.

A cradle Roman Catholic, she was born Mary McDermott, to a family of teachers at St Helens, Lancashire. Her father, who died when she was two, was a Galway man and a supporter of the 1916 Rebels.

lion. At her grammar school, run by the Notre Dame nuns, her mother taught mathematics and her aunt was the headmistress. The Jesuits at St Mary Lowe House gave an intellectual edge to her faith. She always believed that the highest levels of education and employment should be open to women – and, God willing, that there should be a united Ireland.

As a scholar of St Anne's College, Oxford, Mary McDermott lived in a house of mainly Catholic girls during the rationed years of 1946–49 (the atmosphere of which she felt was captured perfectly by Muriel Spark's *The Girls of Slender Means*). She attended lectures by Lord David Cecil (whom she found exotic) and C. S. Lewis (inspiring) and had a wonderful tutor in Dorothy Bednarowska.

From Oxford she won a Fulbright scholarship to Pittsburgh University, which seemed to her to be a bigger St Helens with better food. After a year teaching "Freshman Composition" she returned to look for a job in London. She was placed high in the Foreign Office examination but was betrayed by the "Country House Test". There followed a spell with GCHQ, working on codes and ciphers at Curzon Street and Ruislip, and an interlude at Audrey Withers's *Vogue*, for which she edited *The Beauty Book*. Then she found her first métier, as a copywriter with J. Walter Thompson.

It was then that she met Robin Tuck, whom she married in 1955. They settled first in London W8 and then in Willesden, and produced four children. One of her hit advertisements was for the Civil Service, her first love. She did well in the Late Entry examination for Principals, joined the broadcasting department of the Home Office and then found her niche in the research and planning unit. Her forte there was to turn research towards policy, and to



ing slogans of the period was "When a mother cares it shows" (for Persil).

As the children grew up, Mary Tuck decided to retrain and find herself a more demanding career. So she read Social Psychology at LSE under Professor Hilde Hummelwein, became a supporter of the ideas of Martin Beshen, the American psychologist, and emerged from the sixties and riots of 1968 with a first-class degree.

In 1972, after research in various commercial fields, she turned again to the Civil Service, her first love. She did well in the Late Entry examination for Principals, joined the broadcasting department of the Home Office and then found her niche in the research and planning unit. Her forte there was to turn research towards policy, and to

catch the imagination not only of her staff but also of ministers and of the criminological world outside.

She retired at the end of 1989. The next year Strangeways Prison was set on fire by its inmates, and the disturbances spread to 11 other jails. She was asked by Lord Woolf to join his inquiry, which took an innovative approach (consulting, for example, every prisoner involved in the riots) and promised a new vision of the Prison Service.

Great things were expected, but government policy changed, and it was a sadness for her to have to watch the dismantling of much that Woolf built.

In some ways retirement was her most productive time. She became chairman of Victim Support, a cause for which she had great sympathy. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and two sons.

though she found the constant meetings and committees something of a strain and resigned after two years. She also became a member of the Parole Board, and after seven years service had just been asked to stay on. She was an intuitive interviewer of prisoners, and took a keen and personal interest in the often depressing and sometimes terrible stories they told her.

Three years ago Mary Tuck was invited to join the Lord Chancellor's Committee for Legal Education and Conduct. The Committee's main brief is to arbitrate between the Bar and the Law Society, notably over the knotty question of rights of advocacy in the higher courts. She was convinced that reform should be justified by public interest.

She also served on the Economic and Social Research Council and James Ferman's censorship committee for video, and was involved with local community affairs, particularly with relations between ethnic groups in her much loved North Kensington.

Mary Tuck was appointed CBE in 1989, and there were

those in the House of Lords and elsewhere who hoped that she might make further contributions to public life as a peer. Besides numerous scientific papers she published a psychological textbook, *How Do We Choose?* (1976), some incisive articles on beauty matters and regular book reviews for *The Tablet*. Death prevented her planned philosophical work on the criminal justice system.

She is survived by her husband, two daughters and two sons.

SEYMOUR CRAY

Seymour Cray, computer designer, died after a car crash in Colorado Springs on October 5 aged 71. He was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, on September 28, 1925.

A LONE genius, Seymour Cray was a brilliant but eccentric electronic engineer who developed a series of supercomputing machines renowned for their simplicity and speed. During the 1960s and 1970s they took the lead in the scientific computing market and were increasingly viewed in the United States as a measure of national technological prowess and commercial competitiveness.

Cray's computers were crucial in the researches of military weapons designers and intelligence agencies.

Machines such as the Cray I, the Control Data 6600 or 7600 could be used to simulate nuclear explosions and crack enemy codes. Later, however, his computers were used for more peaceful purposes such as weather prediction and seismic analysis.

Believing that the best computers were the ones in which a single designer offered a unified vision, Cray was familiar with each transistor and wire in every one of his machines. Among the many innovations he pioneered, his most significant was his method of solving the complex problem of "vector processing" – the linking together of series of calculations in specialised hardware – which greatly speeded up solutions.

The density of his designs dramatically reduced the time that it took for electrical signals to travel between circuits.

However, by the 1990s, many of the ideas that he had pioneered, had been exploited by other computer companies. The arrival of cheap and powerful microprocessors undercut his expensive "big iron" systems and this, coupled with a decline in defence research budgets, brought about the decline in his company.

Seymour R. Cray was the son of a municipal engineer. He took after his father. He was later to say, and was "thing-oriented" rather than "people orientated". At school

he was more fascinated by radios and electric motors than he was by his companions, and by the age of ten he had put together an automatic telegraph machine.

On leaving school in 1943 he was enlisted in the Army and, arriving in Europe after D-Day, fought in the Battle of the Bulge before being sent on for a tour of duty in the Philippines where he was involved in supporting a Philippine guerrilla army. But on his return to America he immediately won a place to study electrical engineering at Minnesota University, and he followed this up with a post-graduate degree in applied mathematics.

It was not until after he had completed his university studies that he began the research in which he was to make his

winnestic ingers, in the such howlin is effort strove king : was icinal place ecta of all in a misment que the a ten oris more great llers. ate a

name. A former lecturer recommended that he should apply for a job with Engineering Research Associates, a company at the forefront of developing digital computers and involved, principally, in the advancement of cryptographic equipment for the US Navy.

In 1957 – after two takeovers of the company – several of its leading figures broke away to found the Control Data Company (CDC). It was there that Cray was to lead the design of the world's first transistor-based computer, the CDC 1604, which competed in the market against models designed by the giant IBM.

Cray proved invaluable to CDC. The company built him his own laboratory on a woodland site near his childhood

name. Seymour Cray was twice married. His first marriage was dissolved in 1975. He is survived by his wife Gert, and by two daughters and a son.

ALAN BUTTERWORTH

Alan Butterworth, Headmaster of New College School, Oxford, died after a stroke on October 13 aged 69. He was born on May 3, 1927.

ALAN BUTTERWORTH was appointed Headmaster of New College School, Oxford, in September 1955 and was only to retire 33 years later in December 1988. During this unusually long tenure – one hundred terms – he worked to give the school a reputation for academic and musical excellence while still managing to retain its atmosphere of intimacy and friendliness.

Butterworth inherited a school of 100 pupils housed in an Edwardian building, which had been designed for only 50, and a large temporary hall. Butterworth made the most of the small city-centre site, developing it in such a way that, by the time of his retirement, the school provided accommodation and up-to-date facilities for 140 pupils.

Alan Forbes Butterworth was educated at Manchester Grammar School from where he went on, in 1945, to Brasenose College, Oxford, to read Modern History. On graduating in 1948, he served for a while in the RAF before beginning his teaching career at Bromsgrove Preparatory School. In 1953 he got a job as a housemaster at New College School, a post which he filled for two years before succeeding to the headmastership.

From the first, the close working relationship he en-

joyed with his wife, Joy, was an integral part of their success. She was bursar and secretary and, as such, oversaw the finances of school, which supplies the boys for the choir of New College. But it was he, as headmaster, who was charged with carrying the money to the bank in a capacious Gladstone bag.

Excellence was the watchword of Butterworth's time at the school. He was particularly keen that classics should retain their part in the education of the young. During his tenure a total of 107 academic and 80 music scholarships were won to public schools, and a close link with Winchester College was maintained.

As the reputation of the choir increased, and the choristers began to undertake more foreign tours, recordings and concerts, Butterworth always made sure the boys kept things in perspective with a timely delivery of one of his well-chosen comments.

Alan Butterworth is survived by his wife Joy and two daughters.



ON THIS DAY

October 28, 1969

With the prospective launching of sex education programmes for primary schools it looked as though tales of storks and gooseberry bushes might have had their day.

parents and children also have been given a preview, and all have responded enthusiastically.

Storks and gooseberry bushes at last are banished and adult and frank answers are given to all the questions of children of eight and nine are inclined to ask embarrassing parents.

A sample section of the radio programme goes: "Where do babies come from? From inside their mothers' tummies; that's where babies come from. This lady's going to have a baby. Her tummy is round and big because there's a baby inside. If you had X-ray eyes, you could see through her skin to where the

baby is, curled up safe and warm. If you had X-ray eyes, this is what you could see inside that lady's tummy. A young baby, just about ready to be born. Inside all women there is a place for babies to grow. It's called a womb. The womb is about half-way down from the navel, and it's right inside the woman's body, right in the middle."

The approach of the three television programmes is equally matter of fact, but more realistic, using chickens, cats, dogs and elephants and including film of the birth of a kitten and of a human baby as they happen.

The programmes were prepared at the request of the School Broadcasting Council, which has a membership of teachers and administrators in schools, colleges and universities, and education authorities.

John Robson, secretary of the council, explained yesterday that it was at eight and nine that children started to ask questions about sex. It was a stage in their lives when there was no emotional involvement to make the programmes embarrassing.

Mary Whitehouse, secretary of the National Viewers' Association, said: "I have great reservations about this. Already there is evidence that children may well experiment because their curiosity is aroused by these lessons."

BILL HOOPER



Bill Hooper, wartime RAF cartoonist, died on October 14 aged 80. He was born on August 24, 1916.

IN A varied life in which he was at times a painter, cartoonist and television presenter, Bill Hooper will be principally remembered as the creator of the wartime comic character, Pilot Officer Percy Prune. This affable dimwit whose inept exploits were used to teach often hastily trained airmen what not to do if they wanted to stay alive, took on such a reality in the pages of the Royal Air Force's official training manual *Tee Em* that he became as famous as many of the fighter aces themselves.

Prune had originally been dreamed up by the author and playwright Anthony Armstrong-Jones (always known by his first two Christian names or simply as AA). But it was Hooper who put flesh on him and imparted to him his amiably ineffective persona. As time went by Hooper and Armstrong-Jones created a range of other characters to keep Prune company and communicate further life-saving tips to aspirant pilots.

Conceived in the first instance as a fighter pilot, Prune was later posted around other commands, notably Bomber Command where he acquired a navigator, bomb aimer and airgunner, each of them as disastrously incompetent as Prune himself. The Free French Air Force also took to Prune and he developed a Gallic alter ego, Aspirant Praline. Idiotic though Prune was, his deficiencies did not stop him from wooing a girlfriend, the pretty, blonde WAAF Winsum, modelled on Hooper's real-life wife, Noelle, then serving as a WAAF at RAF Hornchurch, Essex.

William John Henry Hooper was born in London and went to a boarding school in Kent where his penchant for doodling in the margins of his schoolbooks frequently had him in trouble with the authorities. Though this pur-

suited clearly indicated a graphic bent, his parents wanted him to do something scientific.

So he was sent to work for a time as an unpaid assistant in the Windsor laboratory of the celebrated criminal pathologist Francis Clegg. Later he read metallurgy for just two terms at Imperial College, London.

Next, by virtue of the fact that he was an excellent shot, he found employment as the armed bodyguard of a jeweller in Ireland. The country appealed to him and when this job ended he went on the road, eking out a precarious living, painting the pets of country house owners – dogs, cats and horses – in exchange for

a night's bed and board.

When war broke out in 1939 Hooper volunteered as an air gunner but he was subsequently sent as ground staff to No 54 Squadron Fighter Command. While there his skill with brush and pencil was noticed when he sketched cartoons for his fellow servicemen. The squadron CO,

the Rev Anthony Street, formerly with the South American Missionary Society, Chile to be Priest-in-charge, St John Warley, Halifax (Wakefield).

The Rev Sue Strutt, Assistant Curate, Leominster Team Ministry; to be Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Bosbury, Christ Church, Wellington Heath, St Lawrence, Stretton Grandison, St Bartholomew, Ashington, and St James, Canon Frome (Hereford).

The Rev Alan Toop, Priest-in-charge, St John the Baptist, Stokesay, St Michael and All Angels, Shobdon Carwood, St Thomas, Halford, and Priest-in-charge, St Margaret, Acton Scott; to be Rural Dean of Conwy (Hereford).

The Rev Philip Williams, Rector, St Peter, Petersfield, Chichester, St Bartholomew, Vowchurch, St Mary Magdalene, Turnstone, and St Faith, Dorstone; to be Priest-in-charge, St Bartholomew, Marton cum Grafton; to be

Priest-in-charge, Markington, St Bishop Thornton and South Stainley, and Rural Dean of Ripon (Ripon).

The Rev Barry Will, Assistant Curate, St Edmund King and Martyr, Mansfield Woodhouse; to be Assistant Curate, Hucknall Team Ministry, w special responsibility at St Edmundsbury and Ipswich; to retire January 9.

The Rev Clive Williams, Vicar, Highley; to be also Rural Dean of Bridgnorth (Hereford).

The Rev Philip Williams, Rector, St Peter, Petersfield, Chichester, St Bartholomew, Vowchurch, St Mary Magdalene, Turnstone, and St Faith, Dorstone; to be Priest-in-charge, St Bartholomew, Marton cum Grafton; to be

Priest-in-charge, Markington, St Bishop Thornton and South Stainley, and Rural Dean of Ripon (Ripon).

The Rev Ernest Green, Team Rector, Hempton Team Ministry; to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Stockton-on-Tees (Durham).

The Rev David Stephenson, Curate, Sunderland Pennywell, St Thomas within The Annunciation Group Ministry; to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Stockton-on-Tees (Durham).

Appointments

Prebendary John Reese, Vicar, St Paul, Tupsey w St Andrew, Hampton Bishop; to be also Rural Dean of Hereford City.

The Rev Alan Smith, Rector, Rushden w Newton Bromswold; to be Vicar, Wollaston w Strixton (Peterborough).

The Rev Thomas Smith, Team Rector, Tonnes Team Ministry; to be Priest-in-charge, St James, Haslington, and St John, Stonefield (Blackburn).

Canon Hall Speers, Rector, South Lafford group; to be also Rural Dean of Lafford (Lincoln).

The Rev David Stephenson, Curate, Sunderland Pennywell, St Thomas within The Annunciation Group Ministry; to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Stockton-on-Tees (Durham).

Holmer, w St Mary Magdalene, Huntington (Hereford).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Michael Taylor, Priest-in-charge, St Andrew w St Bartholomew, Bristol (Bristol); to resign December 31.

The Rev Harold Wilson, Priest-in-charge, Crowfield w Stanhope Aspal and Mickfield (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to retire January 9.

The Right Rev Malcolm Menzies, Suffragan Bishop of Knaresborough, diocese of Ripon, to retire June 30, 1997.

The Rev Andrew Burnet, Vicar, Bicker and Domington (Lincoln); to retire January 31.

The Rev Ernest Green, Team Rector, Hempton Team Ministry; to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Stockton-on-Tees (Durham).

The showings confirmed the thought

NEWS

Heads want right to discipline

■ Head teachers demanded yesterday that contracts between parents and schools should spell out that teachers will use all reasonable force to discipline children.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said home-school contracts proposed in the Government's Education Bill had to protect teachers from growing numbers of parents who were too quick to defend their tearaways..... Page 1, 22, 23

Euro 96 players face tax penalties

■ Germany may have beaten England on penalties in Euro 96 but the German players are facing penalties of up to £21,000 each from the taxman. The Inland Revenue has launched an investigation to see whether the foreign stars paid enough tax on their appearance money and their win bonuses..... Page 1

Kabul pounded

Tensions rose in Kabul last night after anti-Taliban aircraft bombed the Afghan capital, for the second night running. The raid was met by anti-aircraft fire, shattering the silence of the curfew-bound city..... Pages 1, 14

Turkey warned

The Government has told Turkey to approve tough new laws to combat money-laundering or risk failing in their bid to join the European Union..... Page 2

Labour cautious

The Labour leadership gave its strongest indication yet that it is preparing to keep Britain out of a single currency until the next century..... Page 2

Peer's home robbed

Masked robbers burst into the country home of Lord and Lady McGowan and stole £50,000 in jewels and family heirlooms after assaulting the couple and handcuffing..... Page 3

Harding's estate

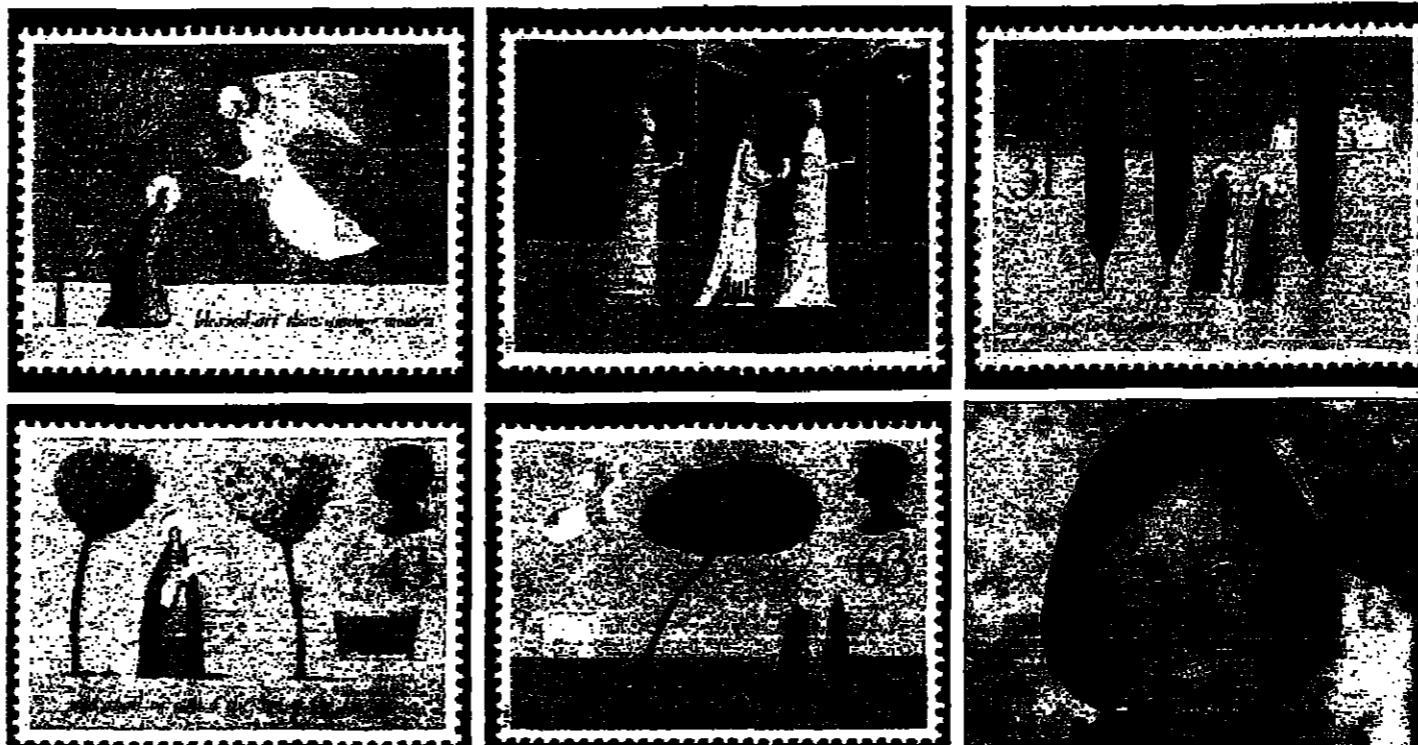
The bulk of the estate of the late Matthew Harding, valued at over £200 million, is to be placed in a discretionary trust for the benefit of his five children..... Page 7

Colleges in favour

Colleges at the top and bottom of the Oxford academic league backed its publication today despite continued official attempts to thwart it..... Page 4

Pagans demand civil rites over death

■ Pagans complain that their civil liberties are being breached as they fight a threat to strip their most prominent trust of charitable status. The Pagan Hospice and Funeral Trust is alleged to have promoted ancient beliefs, and proposed pagan-only burial grounds, instead of simply consoling the dying and bereaved..... Page 5



The 1996 Christmas stamps, which go on sale today, tell the biblical story in simple watercolours. They are the work of Laura Stoddart, 23, a Royal College of Art graduate. She is the youngest professional designer to be commissioned by Royal Mail

BUSINESS

M&S expands: Marks & Spencer is to move into the £1.2 billion market for over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, rivalling Boots and Lloyds the Chemist..... Page 52

Pizza row: PizzaExpress is coming under fire because of its new share incentive plan which rewards its only non-executive director among others..... Page 48

CBI scheme: The Confederation of British Industry is on a collision course with leading institutional shareholders over new proposals on non-voting shares..... Page 52

Leasehold reform: The Government's plans to allow leaseholders to buy their freeholds are coming under attack from all sides because of the wording of the legislation..... Page 50

Starry cast: Chichester's production of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* arrives in the West End, boasting fine performances from Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyzack on the same stage..... Page 20

Ballet debut: Miyako Yoshida, the Japanese-born ballerina, seizes the opportunity to star at Covent Garden, in the revival of MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*..... Page 20

Best bets: There are more than 200 feature films on offer at this year's London Film Festival. Geoff Brown picks the highs and the lows for all tastes..... Page 21

Pop duo: The Chemical Brothers prove why they are top dogs of the flourishing dance music scene with their gig at the Brixton Academy..... Page 21

Laws of language: Philip Howard finds the new version of *Fowler's* is still an indispensable aid to lovers of the English language..... Page 16

Rank injustice: The idea that sexual harassment in the Armed Forces has been outlawed is far from the truth, as many women have discovered. Bill Frost reports..... Page 17

Dangerous debris: Using lasers to pick off space junk sounds like something out of *Star Wars*. But the brightest brains at Nasa have come up with the idea in a desperate attempt to tackle a menace which threatens the satellites and spacecraft circling the globe..... Page 18

Football: Robbie Fowler pressed his claims to be included in the England squad for the World Cup qualifying tie in Georgia next month by scoring both goals in Liverpool's 2-1 victory over Derby County in the FA Carling Premiership yesterday..... Page 27

Rugby: Harlequins lost their unbeaten record in 1996-97 when they were beaten 23-10 in the Heineken Cup by Brive in front of a passionate French crowd..... Page 35

Golf: Mark McNulty completed his third victory of the season by winning the Volvo Masters. He won by seven strokes from José Cordero, Wayne Westner, Sam Torrance and Lee Westwood — the largest winning margin of the season in Europe..... Page 28

Baseball: New York Yankees were finally restored to their position at the summit of the sport when they clinched their first World Series since 1978..... Page 33

Sailing: Nine yachts have now made it to Rio at the end of the first leg of the BT Global Challenge. Group 4 is in the lead..... Page 33

IN THE TIMES

■ MAN OF WOOD
Britain celebrates the extraordinary sculpture of David Nash in three new shows

■ TRADING PLACES

James Zirin on insider dealing and how US courts are giving it the green light

1. 3. 9. 35. 20. 30. Bonus 36.
Seven share the £23,526,874 rollover, each winning £3,360,982; 22 tickets win £13,995 for five numbers and the bonus; 1,276 win £1,872 for five numbers; 72,713 win £72 for four numbers; 1,377,009 win £10 for three numbers

President Clinton is heading for re-election thanks, paradoxically, to the overwhelming victory of the Republicans in the 1994 elections to the Congress and Senate. Because of that, none of his grass-roots projects have got off the ground... obliging him to bury them and convert himself into a prudent political conservative — ABC, Madrid

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The great difference between the 1960s and the 1990s is that John Locke nowhere mentions the role of the State in education. It would not have occurred to him that we might expect Prime Ministers to teach virtue to our children..... Page 22

PETER RIDDELL

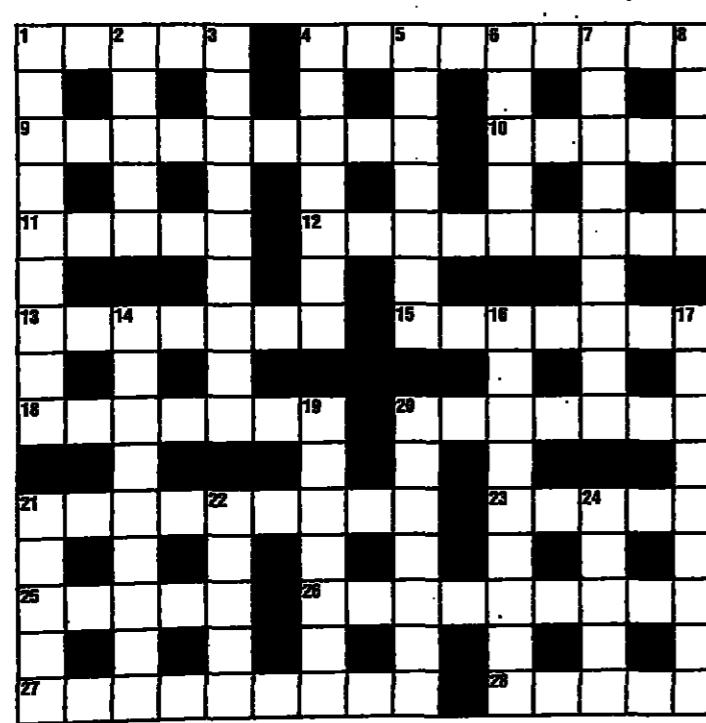
The US presidential contest is essentially a verdict on the strength of the economy and on Bob Dole's inept campaign..... Page 22

Mary Tuck, criminologist; Bill Hooper, wartime RAF cartoonist; Seymour Cray, designer of supercomputers..... Page 25

Fishing quota crisis: The Ridings; School teachers; calculated insults; Labour and the poor..... Page 23

President Clinton is heading for re-election thanks, paradoxically, to the overwhelming victory of the Republicans in the 1994 elections to the Congress and Senate. Because of that, none of his grass-roots projects have got off the ground... obliging him to bury them and convert himself into a prudent political conservative — ABC, Madrid

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,310



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Wind speeds (mph) & direction

Sea conditions

Warming front

Cold front

Occluded front

Temperature (Celsius)

Pressure (mb)

Cloud cover

Humidity (%)

Wind gusts (mph)

Wind direction

Cloud height (metres)

Cloud type

Cloud density

Cloud base (metres)

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McCririck comes under fire in war of words

Suddenly, without warning, the unmistakable features of John McCririck filled our screens. What was he doing there? This was Sky Sports' coverage of the Breeders' Cup, not Channel 4's. Never mind that — more important, what on earth had McCririck done to deserve the sort of abuse that he was getting from the American commentary team at Woodbine?

"The worst sort of result for old mutton chops," declared Tom Durkin, a man whose up-and-at 'em commentary style is about as far away from Peter O'Sullivan as it is possible to get. "Yep," exclaimed Durkin's unforgiving colleague, "that's one absolutely pathetic Englishman who has just lost to the Americans. I predict he will be deported tomorrow." McCririck wiped

away a tear. Actually, it was Mark Of Esteem who had just lost to a horse trained by one absolutely brilliant Englishman, Michael Dickinson. But you cannot tell Americans that sort of thing. Well, not on Breeders' Cup night. The card was four races old and we had a war on our hands.

Jeff Stelling, who anchored the satellite channel's coverage from London, tried to ignore it. But it was all too much for David Hood, the man from William Hill. Never mind that NBC was probably paying Big Mac millions to play patsy for the American audience. Hood wanted revenge. Race five, the Juvenile, gave him his opportunity.

What McCririck was doing (unseen by us) for the Americans, a gentleman called Andy Beyer, of *The Washington Post*, was doing the opposite



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

for Sky — provocatively heapings scorn on the European effort. But the Juvenile gave him time off from his interminable endeavours — there was no European horse in the field. So he heaped derision on one of his own, Boston Harbor — absolutely no chance, horribly over-rated. Yup, if you didn't see it, you've guessed it.

"Who's the bum now?" sneered Hood after Boston Harbor had held on forever, "maybe our colleague from *The Washington Post* can go and buy a shirt and tie." It was

all getting nasty. It was already confusing, but then Breeders' Cup night always is. The race pictures and the expert commentary were provided by NBC, a network accustomed to taking advertisement breaks even more regularly than Sky. These the satellite channel filled with aerial shots of Woodbine; or with live links to "Aussie" Jim McGrath, or with extensive amounts of chat with Stelling's studio guests. Hood and the jockey, John Reid, "So, where has the European challenge

gone wrong this year?" asks Stelling each year. And each year they tell him. Dirt, kick-back, bends. American horses running faster ... the usual disaster.

At least the satellite channel received some reward for expanding its coverage again this year, extending the programme to four hours and increasing the number of races covered live from five last year to six. Only the juvenile fillies now fight it out on video tape.

An overcome Dickinson, carried away by "the happiest day of my life", wanted to thank his mother, who he knew would be watching. "I bought her a satellite dish so she can get Sky." Back in London, Stelling was also overcome — presumably with gratitude. "There you are, the benefits of buying a dish for

your mum." I need hardly add that Sky is part owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, but I know someone will.

But apart from plugs, there were two fine sporting moments to savour. One was the almost inevitable defeat of Cigar, for which NBC's pictures were really all that was needed. The second, however, was Walter Swinburn's wonderful win in the Turf, a comeback that required gentler handling than Swinburn got either from NBC's mounted interviewer, Greg McCarron, or from the tiresome but tactless McGrath. Talking us through the race was a good idea for question one, but "there must have been many dark moments for you" was not an ideal follow-up for a man who had been in tears since he passed the post.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sampras bows to resurgent Becker

BORIS BECKER underlined the success of his recovery from a serious wrist injury by defeating Pete Sampras, the world tennis No 1, in the final of the Stuttgart Open yesterday. Becker delighted a partisan home crowd by coming from behind to end Sampras' 21-match unbeaten run and win 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4. Sampras, who was seeking his fourth consecutive tournament victory, said: "He was just too good today — a great comeback. Becker is the best indoor player I've ever played."

Becker admitted that he had surprised himself in a match that lasted almost three hours. "My muscles started to hurt in the fifth set, but I gritted my teeth and hung on," he said. "Being this good this soon after the injury is the best Christmas gift I could have."

Tim Henman, the British No 1, will meet Becker at the Paris Open if he beats Carlos Moya, of Spain, today.

Visitors in charge

ICE HOCKEY: Nottingham Panthers and Basingstoke Bison have taken their first steps towards the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup, enjoying away wins in the opening legs of their semi-final ties. Nottingham beat Sheffield Steelers 3-2, Basingstoke overcame Ayr Scottish Eagles 2-0 and, in both cases, neutrinos, so often overlooked, stole the glory.

At the Sheffield Arena, Trevor Robbins restricted the Steelers to goals from Ken Preistley and Tim Cranston, each equalising earlier efforts by Garth Premak and Jeff Head. Paul Adey scored the winner. Richard Gallace, of Basingstoke, was even more effective, keeping Ayr at bay while Blake Knox scored twice. The return legs will be on Thursday.

Flying start for Locher

SKIING: Steve Locher, of Switzerland, won the opening giant slalom of the World Cup season in Sölden yesterday. Locher clocked fastest times in both runs on the Reitzenbach piste for a winning aggregate of 2min 03.20sec, to edge out Michael Von Grünigen, his compatriot, the defending giant slalom champion. Von Grünigen, who was also second after the first descent, clocked 2min 03.51sec in good conditions on the Austrian glacier at an altitude of above 3,000 metres. Third place went to Kjetil Andre Aamodt, of Norway, the 1994 overall World Cup champion.

Europe's breakthrough

TRIATHLON: Luc van Lierde, of Belgium, a rookie, became the first European to win the Hawaii Ironman triathlon's toughest endurance race. Not since 1980, when Dave Scott, of the United States, won the first of his six ironman world titles, has a rookie crossed the finish line first after the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile cycle and 26.2-mile run. Van Lierde broke the course record when finishing in 8hr 04min 08sec. Thomas Hellriegel, of Germany, also broke the course record, set by Mark Allen, of the United States, to finish runner-up for the second consecutive year.

Corser clinches crown

MOTORCYCLING: Carl Fogarty, the deposed world superbike champion, finished fourth and sixth yesterday in the two races that comprised the final round of the championship in Phillip Island, Australia. Fogarty, riding a Castrol-Honda, finished the season in fourth place overall. Troy Corser, of Australia, was confirmed as champion when Aaron Slight, of New Zealand, his main rival, crashed out of the first contest yesterday.

England on top

BOWLS: England completed a 10-3 victory over Jersey in the women's indoor match at the Grampian Stadium yesterday, despite losing Mary Price, the English outdoors champion, who suffered a knee injury. Robert Weale, who was tipped to qualify for the world indoor singles championship next January, suffered a surprise defeat by Andrew Bushell, the Welsh junior champion, in the Welsh play-offs at Llandrindod Wells.

Setback for Scotland

HOCKEY: New Zealand confirmed their standing as favourites to win the preliminary round of the women's World Cup in Port of Spain, Trinidad, by beating Scotland 5-1, never looking back after scoring twice in the first six minutes. Japan will be New Zealand's opponents in the final. They came from two down to beat India 3-2. Akemi Kato scoring the winning goal after 16 seconds of extra time. South Africa clinched the fifth qualifying place.

Birchfield win day

ATHLETICS: Birchfield Harriers' women's team captured the Nike national road relay championship yesterday in Sutton Park, Birmingham. Their victory in the 4x3 mile race came after the men had taken third behind Bingley in the 6x3.7 mile event on Saturday. Sally Ellis stretched Birchfield's lead on the final leg and completed a combined time of 59min 31sec, 16 seconds ahead of Leeds City, with Westbury Harriers, a further 47 seconds adrift, in third.

ROWING

Redgrave tempted by Australian offer

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

STEVE REDGRAVE, Great Britain's greatest oarsman, will decide shortly if he is to leave and coach in Australia. Redgrave is awaiting the terms of an offer this week, initially for a trial period six months, to take up one of two coaching posts in Adelaide or Sydney.

The offer will include a position for his doctor wife, Ann, herself a Commonwealth Games silver and bronze medallist, who has been the British team doctor since 1992. "The offer to Ann is an added incentive," Redgrave said yesterday.

Redgrave's decision will, however, be based on the long-term options. "There is no way I am going out there for six months if the long-term package is not good enough." His thoughts revolve not just around finance but around his two young daughters, Natalie and Sophie.

Redgrave's past involvement in coaching has been limited and Jürgen Grobler, the Britain chief coach and Redgrave's mentor for six years, said yesterday: "Top oarsmen are not always top coaches," but admitted that he had talked to Redgrave about coaching in Britain. "I would like to have him in Britain but we cannot employ people because we have no money."

Australia, by contrast, has pumped £4.2 million into rowing since 1993, a government decision to buy medals, according to Phil Mangelsdorf, a south Australian coach. It showed in the Olympics and world championships.

Redgrave admitted that "Coaching in this country has not been an option which has come into the equation." The same, presumably, applied to Steve Gunn, coach to the Olympic medal-winning coxed pair in 1992 and coxless four this year, who leaves for New Zealand in January.

Younger Leander took the scull event at Marlow on Saturday by storm. Chris Bullas, a former Dogger's winner, was fastest of the day and four other Leander members finished in the top ten places.

Faldo breaking with IMG after 20 years

NICK FALDO had plenty of time to consider his long-term future when play in the final round of the US Tour championship was washed out by violent storms that swept the Southern Hills course in Tulsa, Oklahoma, yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

Faldo is about to sever his 20-year relationship with the International Management Group (IMG), that has guided his career since he turned professional in 1976. IMG has also lost other valuable clients in Greg Norman and Nick Price.

field. Officials were waiting for a weather forecast before deciding whether to take the event into a fifth day.

□ Europe's women golfers still have to go west to make their fortunes and three notable names earned their US Tour cards at the final LPGA qualifying tournament in Daytona Beach, Florida, last week: Charlotte Sorenstam, the younger sister of Annika, the US Open champion. Dale Reid, the veteran Scot, and Joanne Morley, of England, who made her Solheim Cup debut last month.

for him to earn enough money to remain third in the order of merit, and a fierce outburst by Montgomerie against the controversial 17th hole yesterday afternoon.

Montgomerie called it the worst hole the professionals played all year. "This course consists of 17 good holes and

one that is completely out of character. The hole makes the course a lottery. The bumps in the fairway are wrong, the rough across the fairway is wrong, the green is wrong. We all know that Ballesteros might be the best who ever lived but he is no course designer."

McNulty salutes the gallery after sinking his final putt in the Volvo Masters

glaring with a back injury which will see him visit a specialist today, were 39 over par on aggregate.

What will remain in the mind, instead, is the 40-yard

stroke by the injured Robert Allenby, of Australia, in the damp gloom of Thursday morning, which was sufficient

for him to earn enough money to remain third in the order of merit, and a fierce outburst by Montgomerie against the controversial 17th hole yesterday afternoon.

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BASKETBALL

Donestwold gets Riders back on course

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

when they trailed 50-33. A 13-day break had done Leicester few favours. "We started off a bit flat," Donewald said. "But once we got into that second tempo and Nate Reinking sparked us."

Reinking, a 6ft 1in guard, was in fact making his debut and did not do badly, finishing with 19 points. Under his prompting, Leicester prevented the Tigers from sinking a single field basket for eight minutes.

Gene Waldron had laid the foundations for Leicester's revival with three successive three-pointers, then Leon McGee took over, finishing with 31 points to leave the Tigers demoralised.

Manchester Giants, Worthing Bears, Chester Jets, and Crystal Palace all won their opening group games in the 7-Up Trophy. Hemel and Watford Royals, who have lost their opening nine league fixtures, led Palace 78-75, but Palace burst into belated action, to run out winners by 101-93.

The Tigers could be excused for wishing Donewald had been an obedient child. Seemingly in control with a healthy first-half lead of 31-21, they then capitulated, conceding 29 of the next 31 points, to be out of contention by half-time.

Donewald, whose previous best in a ranking event was a quarter-final appearance at the International Open last year, exhibited admirable poise in the latter stages of his 6-3 semi-final win over Mark Bennett. He compiled breaks of 65, 68 and 70 in pulling away from 3-3.

SNOOKER

Williams races toward Grand Prix victory

BY PHIL YATES

DESPITE a discouraging start, Mark Williams established a 6-2 lead over Euan Henderson at the end of the first session of the Grand Prix final in Bournemouth yesterday. He was left requiring only three of the remaining nine frames to collect the £60,000 first prize.

Despite winning the opening frame, Williams, 21, failed to settle early nerves and Henderson won the second frame with a run of 47, the highest break of the afternoon. He moved 2-1 ahead by constructing a 43 clearance in the third after Williams had missed an elementary pink off its spot when 46-17 to the good.

Slowly but surely, however, Williams assumed control. In securing the next five frames he did not score with any great consistency, but his accurate long potting proved significant as he rendered a number of safety shots from Henderson ineffective.

Williams produced arguably the finest single performance of his career to defeat John Parrott 6-1 in the semi-finals on Saturday to repeat his victory over the Liverpudlian in the Regal Welsh Open final nine months ago.

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Results, page 38

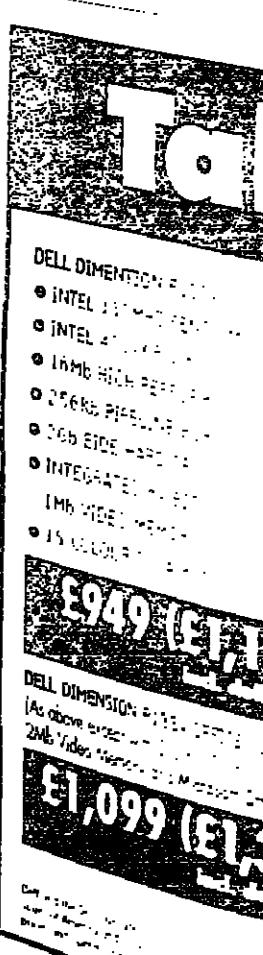
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Champions victims of their own indiscipline as they suffer another rout Keane drags United into the red

Southampton 8
Manchester United 3

By Keith Pike

HUMILIATED by the pretenders in black and white, haunted by the shades of grey, now swamped by a red tide no wonder that Manchester United are feeling off colour. They might have been excused for thinking that it could not get any worse after their drubbing at St James Park, but they were badly wrong. For drama, read crisis.

Any team in England can lose 5-0 to Newcastle United when the Magpies are flying, as they were last Sunday, but for the champions to let in six at The Dell? It simply beggars belief and, unlike April, when they lost on their previous visit, there was no grey kit to deflect attention from their shortcomings.

Even before Egil Ostenseth sliced through the remnants of the United defence to claim his third and Southampton's final

goal on Saturday — the twelfth that United had conceded in seven days — the inquests had started. McClair bellowed at Irwin, Irwin berated Beckham, Schmeichel just ranting at anyone within earshot (although he does that even when United are winning). All the while, the United bench looked accusingly at the officials. Scapgoats, like Southampton goals, were thick on the ground.

How bad were United? It is 16 years since they last conceded six goals to anyone, and this is only the second time in four years that they have lost two league matches in succession. To blame shoddy defending and dubious refereeing, though, would not only detract from the brilliance of Southampton's finishing, but also ignore the fact that, once again, United were the victims of their own indiscipline.

Southampton were a revelation, and to contain them with a full complement might have proved beyond United. To do so with ten men for three quarters of the match was asking too much. Before they apportion blame to everyone outside their own camp, United might be well advised to ask some simple, direct questions of Roy Keane.

Keane, like Ince before him, too often epitomises the modern United: easily aggravated, snarlingly arrogant ... and



Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, is left stranded as Berkovic, a recruit from Maccabi Haifa, opens the scoring for Southampton

quite often without justification. So, when a couple of irrelevant early decisions went against them, it was Keane who orchestrated the histrionics and, when Butt collapsed under Beasant's fair challenge, it was Keane who ran 40 yards to remonstrate with Jeff Winter, the referee, to talk his way into the book.

Four minutes had gone. After 22, so had Keane, whose tackle on Lundekvam might have been more mistimed than malicious, but whose dismissal — his fifth in 17 months for club and country — for a second booking was an accident waiting to happen. Captain Cantona, with his pat of condolence, and Alex Ferguson, with his indignant manager's march on to the pitch, tacitly pardoned the mistake.

United's shame could have been greater still, for it remains a mystery how Winter missed Cantona's lunging, venomous kick at Van Gobbel, the Southampton defender.

after he had fairly dispossessed him. A reformed character? Cantona, already known for dissent, compounded his spitefulness with skulduggery, collapsing untouched, unrepentant.

Ferguson can summon all the video evidence he likes, United can whinge about every official, but maybe, just

maybe, the simple truth is that they just do not like losing; and, by the time of Cantona's indiscretion, they were.

Southampton had taken an early lead with a goal made by an adopted Welshman (Neilson) and a Norwegian (Ostenseth), and finished by an Israeli, Eyal Berkovic. They had doubled it with a

goal made in heaven. Le Tissier shambling past two defenders before lobbing Schmeichel so precisely that The Dell descended into disbeliefing silence before erupting in acclaim. Beckham's free kick over the wall had given United hope, only for Ostenseth to extinguish it again before half-time.

Or had he? For a while, United played — and behaved — like champions. Cruyff also booked for a two-footed lunge on Berkovic, made less precise contact with Beckham's cross. Van Gobbel blocked his fellow Dutchman's goalbound shot and, when Moy stole in to head Beckham's free kick past Beasant, the game was there for United to save at 3-2 down.

By now, though, Keane's absence and, to be fair, injuries that forced the replacement of Butt and Pallister were taking their toll and, of the four goals that decorated the closing ten minutes, three went to a rampant Southampton.

Berkovic, at £1 million from Maccabi Haifa, looks a steal, but neither he nor Ostenseth would gloat at United's discomfort. Nor would Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager. "Everything went right for us, but you would be a fool to think that United are anything other than a very good team," Souness said.

"There is not a lot wrong with them. They are still the team to beat." Unless they beat themselves, of course.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-2-2-1): D Beasant — JG Gobbel, E Lundström, D Dykes, D McCallum, F Redmond, D Odell, A Neilson (sub: G Pottier, 77); — E Ostenseth, M Le Tissier (sub: D Irwin, 45); P Neilson — D Beckham, R Keane, N Odegaard (sub: B McCarra, 17), C Offor (sub: O Schmeichel, 64); — O. Cantona, P. Scholz. Referee: J Whittle.

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MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2-1): P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, G Pallister (sub: D Irwin, 45), P Neville — D Beckham, R Keane, N Odegaard (sub: B McCarra, 17), C Offor (sub: O Schmeichel, 64); — O. Cantona, P. Scholz. Referee: J Whittle.

The time to worry is when chances dry up'

It is the same with Liverpool. I don't normally react to criticism, but I was annoyed after we lost to United. People — including the football correspondent of *The Times* — suggested that we were playing too much football, and not penetrating enough. Yet we created enough chances to have won comfortably, maybe even as comfortably as Newcastle in the week later.

Now, I think it was fair comment to say our finishing wasn't quite right, but not that everyone makes a mistake when the others like to point it out, just to rub it in. Robbie Fowler likes to talk me through my best misses, and I'll do the same to him.

At the moment, we all have a laugh about Jason McAteer, because he gets so wound up in games. He always seems to end up arguing with the man he is marking. We are always waiting for him to bite and it's hilarious when he does.

The stuff from the players is usually just a joke. Whenever anyone makes a mistake, then the others like to point it out, just to rub it in. Robbie Fowler likes to talk me through my best misses, and I'll do the same to him.

Most of the time, though, I don't get angry, just baffled. For every critic that says one thing, another says the opposite, and for every game where a team is criticised for doing one thing, the next game brings criticism for doing the opposite. United are good example. People said that they should defend in Europe, but, when they did against Juventus, they were criticised.

It is so fickle.

Defeats expose flaws in Ferguson's grand design

Rob Hughes examines the reasons behind the double-winners' sudden fall from grace

If managers could choose their own omens, no doubt Alex Ferguson would cling to the fact that the last time Manchester United lost a league match 6-3 came at West Bromwich Albion in April 1968. A month later, United won the European Cup, and that remains not only the priority for Ferguson but also the one trophy that he craves to emulate Sir Matt Busby with a full set of silverware for every competition going.

However, Busby's 1968 side bounced back, as great champions do, by winning their next game 6-0 against Newcastle United. Moreover, in the Busby era, United never conceded 11 goals in successive league games ... for that you have to go back 60 years.

So, statistics are of no real

comfort to the disarray of Manchester United as they enter another week on the European trail. True, the manager has suggested all season long that league fixtures are his second priority, and true, United did, in end, comfortably beat Fenerbahce in Istanbul less than two weeks ago.

One blip may seem unfortunate, two seem like rank carelessness. It is more it is evidence that United, with their mixture of youngsters and relatively cheap imports, are far from a settled unit of continental power and consistency.

Why is this? Let us start at the back. Peter Schmeichel has earned his reputation as one of the world's most dominating goalkeepers. It is seldom fault when things go haywire, and seldom does he

hampton's six goals, but may point to the dishevelled defence in front of him. Pallister had gone off, yet again, with his back pain, though, to tell the truth, he sorely misses the organisation of Steve Bruce, who was the true leader of United, the milder who kept Pallister concentrated.

In midfield, nobody can self-destruct like United. When Keane is running on full power and Butt is snapping into his terror-like tackles, the flow is with United. By 22 minutes at the Dell, both had gone — Butt to injury and Keane, as his wont, sent off for compounding his indiscipline with a careless foul. Then there is Cantona.

Cantona was also beaten, uncharacteristically, at his near post among Sout-

Gunnar Solskjær, the Norwegian. He has been a revelation, but Ferguson always knew that he had bought a player to mature for the future. He expected the slight downturn in form that Solskjær may be approaching.

Of course, all this is bluff and double bluff. Ferguson and his team are coming the opposition, preparing to be rampant a second time against Fenerbahce on Wednesday, and then overwhelming the pretenders to their FA Carling Premiership title when they have safely reached the European Cup quarter-final.

In attack, where neither Poborsky nor Cruyff have shown consistently that they are full-blooded performers, too much onus is on Ole Gunnar Solskjær to score. He is the only way forward, look at Ajax and Milan. You win nothing by lumping the ball, and giving up possession.

Most of the time, though, I don't get angry, just baffled.

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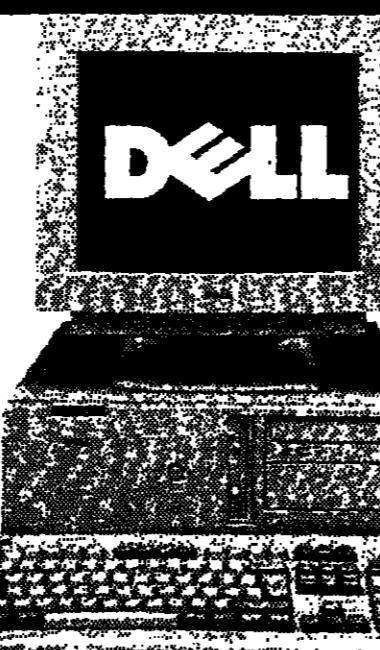
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It is so fickle.

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FOOTBALL

Leicester learn what it takes to live with the best

Leicester City 2
Newcastle United 0

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

If he is not careful, Martin O'Neill will soon be up before the bar, on a charge of bringing the game into repute. In outlook and vocabulary, O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, is far removed from the everyday rascality of football, and he deserves to prosper. This season, prosperity would be keeping his club in the FA Carling Premiership.

This defeat of the team that began the match leading all others was nothing short of remarkable, as Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, was gracious enough to admit. With just a touch of hyperbole, Keegan used the footballers' favourite C-word, considering the Leicester performance the most "committed" he had seen.

O'Neill was not inclined to argue, for he knew that, although it yielded only three points, this was not just any old victory. Its manner proved that Leicester can survive at this level, so long as they carry that sort of enthusiasm into every game. "To stay in this division," Keegan said, "they know they have to play like that."

It was stirring stuff, and Filbert Street pulsated with noise when Graham Poll blew his last whistle. O'Neill declared himself "ecstatic" and threatened to "lay into some excellent wine tonight". No doubt it was something full-bodied, like the performance he coaxed from his players.

In one important respect, O'Neill was mistaken. In the excitement of the moment, he

referred to Newcastle as "a magnificent side". What he meant was that they are a team capable of playing magnificent football, which is not the same thing. Magnificent sides usually have something to show for their magnificence. As yet, Newcastle, for all the millions that they have spent, have not.

A huge chunk of that money went on one player — Alan Shearer — and his absence for the next month can only give their opponents succour.

Newcastle made enough chances here to win two games, so it is wrong to suggest that his absence was the critical factor, but it does

Police have confirmed that they are investigating complaints that a Leicester City player made inflammatory gestures towards Newcastle United supporters during the match at Filbert Street on Saturday.

deprive them of a man who is a forward line in himself. Aspirilla, the Colombian misfit, cannot be sure of starting a game even when Shearer is injured, and ventured little, and Keegan felt the total of six cautions excessive for a match that was never dirty. "We're not that sort of side," he said.

Well, no, they are not. They are, as the saying goes, "good for the game". However, in the first half, the play was certainly fractious as Newcastle's frustration frequently got the better of them. Although Keegan said that "I like the referees that you don't notice", Poll deserved better than that indirect criticism. It was not an easy game to handle.

On another day, Ferdinand would have finished with a hat-trick. Keller, Leicester's goalkeeper from the United States, beat away two strong headers and used his legs to stop a goal-bound shot. The first save, when Ferdinand leapt high to meet Ginola's cross, was particularly fine and, as it prevented his side going a goal down, it turned out to be the most important moment of the afternoon.

Leicester's sharpness in the

defence of a dog defends its patch. Newcastle were less zealous. Mark Lawrenson, who begins work this week as their defensive coach, does not lack opportunity. Nine minutes from time, seconds after Albert had headed wide from a good position, Heskey strolled through the middle and walked the ball round Srncek into the goal. It gave the game a misleading scoreline, but, if only for their refusal to give way, Leicester deserved what they got.

LEICESTER CITY (5-3-2): K Keller — S Grayson, J Wells, S Walsh, S Prior, M McLean, M Lennard, M Izzet (sub: J Lawrence, 90m), S Heskey, S Carragher (sub: I Marshall, 59), E Heskey

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P Smitsek — S Watson (sub: P Johnson, 70), D Stockwood, P Doherty, D Batty, D Bailey, L Clark, sub: F Asprilla, 70, D Grealish — D Beasant, L Ferdinand

Referee: G Poll



Claridge, centre, celebrates scoring the first Leicester City goal against Newcastle United at Filbert Street

GOALKEEPER: N COX; R PEARSON (sub: D WHYTE, 35m), S MCLELLAN, R ALBERT, P STONE, M LAWRENSON, C FARRINGTON, J LEONARD, M IZZET, S CARRAGHER; S CARRAGHER (sub: I MARSHALL, 59), E HESKEY

Referee: G Poll

At least the Premiership is not scarred with the name of Wimbledon, in its record books. To express a loathing of Wimbledon is considered objective and proper football reporting, you see.

Still, the FA Cup is scarred by the name of Wimbledon: they won it in 1988, beating Liverpool in the final. My long-suffering friend, James Lawton, of *The Express*, may even forgive me if I quote, just one more time, his pre-match opinion that Liverpool were "fighting for the good name of English football".

What has happened to the English love of the underdog?

Everybody rejoiced when Sunderland, then of the second division, beat the all-conquering Leeds United side of 1973. But, as long as

Wimbledon have hung on in there in the top division, the cry has gone out the length

and breadth of the footballing land: will no one rid us of this turbulent club?

And so to Middlesbrough, where Barmby was sitting on his six-million-quid bottom on the substitutes' bench, watching two Brazilian superstars

Juninho did a lot of running round Vinnie, and Emerson charged through midfield and through midfielders rather

than Tuigamala does in rugby, a nice mix of strength and skill. But, against a defence that merged canny hanging back with moments of pure desperation, plus some astute help from the woodwork that denied Beck at the start and Stamp at the finish, they were not quite good enough on the day.

But Wimbledon show us all

that you need to hang on at the highest level is football alone. If Wimbledon can do it, anybody can. They provide hope for the lowest club in the land — and humility for the greatest. And that is what makes them the country's most important club.

England's falling out of love

with the underdog is a worrying matter. George Graham's Arsenal side may have been called boring, but no one said that its hardness and pragmatism were morally unacceptable.

Wimbledon's principal

crime is not dirty football, nor even unattractive football.

These are just handy sticks with which to beat the club.

Their true crime is poverty.

Naturally, Wimbledon have

played up to this for all they

are worth. They rejoice in

their rejection and their

achievements. It is a shame

that the footballing nation is

reduced to such desperate

snobbery that it cannot rejoice

along with them.

Typical Wimbledon, trying

to stop opponents scoring and

then trying to score themselves.

People like that would be

better out of football.

Really, if the lower orders

don't set a good example,

what on earth is the use of

them?

MIDDLEBROUGH (4-3-1-2): G Wales — N Cox, R Pearson (sub: D Whyley, 35m), S McLellan, R Alcock, P Stone, M Lawrenson, C Farrington, J Leonard, M Izett, S Carragher; S Carragher (sub: I Marshall, 59), E Heskey

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sutcliffe — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thackeray (sub: A Kumble, 48) — N Ardeley, R Eastman (sub: P Fair, 50), L Jones, L Loonaham, D Batty, E Grealish (sub: D Holdsworth, 77)

Referee: S Dunn



Wimbledon restate case for the unloved

Simon Barnes rejoices in the south Londoners' refusal to be cowed by the criticism after a goalless draw at Middlesbrough

No person of footballing goodwill can doubt that Wimbledon are the most important club in the FA Carling Premiership ever more money, ever more exotic stars, ever more opulent stadiums — that is the state of the Premiership football today.

Wimbledon have nothing to declare but their football. Such as it is. No money, no stars, very few supporters, and no stadium at all. Homeless. But the *Big Issue* sellers of the Premiership will not go away. And they are there to be rejoiced in.

On Saturday, against Middlesbrough, they had the chance to equal Manchester United's Premiership record of eight successive wins. But for a dreadful first touch from Ardley in front of a gaping goal, and Whyte's red-card-worthy topping of Gayle when he was clean through, they might have done it. As it was, Wimbledon were pleased enough to escape with a 0-0 draw. To level United's record would have had a certain beauty about it, but an away point remains an away point, especially when you have been outplayed all afternoon.

A report in one of the Sunday papers began: "At least the Premiership is not scarred with the name of Wimbledon, in its record books. To express a loathing of Wimbledon is considered objective and proper football reporting, you see.

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ing two Brazilian superstars

and, of course, Ravanelli, from Italy, strut their stuff. This is a showbiz side of little substance thus far, and beset by rumours of a dressing-room rift between the very well-paid Brits and the extremely well-paid foreigners. Wimbledons eternal answer to all questions is, of course, Vinnie Jones, football's pantomime demon. He has been the face of Wimbledon down the years, a face always lit up with underdog defiance, whose life's work is to bring people down a peg or two.

Now you do not win seven matches on the trot with nothing but kicking and spoiling in the Vinnie tradition. Wimbledon, under Joe Kinnear, can play, but prefer not to stress that side of things.

Wimbledon have been reviled for being rough boys; they have also been reviled for not playing the pretty way. Certainly, they played a lot of long-ball football in the days of Fashanu, but, on Saturday, the long balls came from Middlesbrough, desperate late in the game as they found all the pretty ways blocked.

Juninho did a lot of running round Vinnie, and Emerson charged through midfield and through midfielders rather

than Tuigamala does in rugby, a nice mix of strength and skill. But, against a defence that merged canny hanging back with moments of pure desperation, plus some astute help from the woodwork that denied Beck at the start and Stamp at the finish, they were not quite good enough on the day.

Ryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, whinged on about Wimbledon being unfair and rough and so on, certain that he had a sympathetic audience. Middlesbrough would have got the three points they deserved, if only Wimbledon hadn't tried to stop them: that was the gist of it.

Typical Wimbledon, trying to stop opponents scoring and then trying to score themselves. People like that would be better out of football. Really, if the lower orders don't set a good example, what on earth is the use of them?

Typical Wimbledon, trying to stop opponents scoring and then trying to score themselves. People like that would be better out of football. Really, if the lower orders don't set a good example, what on earth is the use of them?

LIKE the poor of London, Coventry City always seem to be with us. For 30 seasons now, they have survived within football's top flight, commanding little attention unless they happen to be struggling against relegation in the closing weeks. Prepare for rainforests of words on this club next April and May — it is one of those difficult seasons.

Coventry sit second from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership today, above only Blackburn Rovers, which is not saying much. Ron Atkinson, the manager, retires at the end of this campaign and, after a career in the game that has always been entertaining, only his bitterest enemies would wish to see him taking them through the trap door to the first division — but he is beginning to push it gently ajar.

Big Ron, big problems. Talking after this draw, inevitably goalless, he cut a lousy, grumpy figure. The tension was almost palpable and, while he pointed to the fine goalkeeping of Kevin Pressman, the sorry fact remains that Coventry have scored only four goals in 11 league games. Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said, not bitter.

Lee's broken leg, accidentally sustained in a challenge with Campbell, added a sombre tailnote to an extraordinary day. The day when Coventry bade farewell to Matthew Harding, vice-chairman, director, supporter, the day when a pint of Guinness took centre stage at Stamford Bridge. Cheers, Matthew.

CHELSEA (3-4-1-2): K Hutchinson — M Duberry, D Clarke, R Dicks, S Casper, S Wilson, S Parker, S Mervin, S Murphy, S Gullit (sub: C Bailey, 74) — M Hughes, G Villa

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S O'Connor, C Casper, S Wilson, S Parker, S Mervin, S Murphy, S Gullit (sub: C Bailey, 74) — M Hughes, G Villa

Referee: P Dicks

Atkinson struggled with sinking feeling

Wednesday manager, felt that Atkinson would have settled for a point going into the closing minutes, even though, at that stage, Coventry were featuring largely in the Wednesday half.

At that late stage, as a home manager, you are just desperate not to lose.

Pleat, after spending those final moments looking rather desperate himself, said:

"He stood on the touchline screaming tactics and waving the substitutes' number boards wildly,

as if he were ushering an aeroplane onto the flight deck, as he waited for the ball to go out to play.

Wednesday's best opportunities came from Mark Pembridge, but Steve Ogrizovic proved equal to his efforts whether airborne or along the ground. Their most exciting work stemmed from Benito Carbone, the Italian recently acquired from Internazionale, along the right flank.

On one occasion, he numbed Kevin Richardson twice in the same move. As Pleat acknowledged, though, he must cut out the theatricals that made him an unpopular character at Highfield Road on Saturday and will continue to detract from his more acceptable skills, which are all too scarce in the Premiership.

The case was taken up by Jon Newsome, the Wednesday defender. "In the fortnight he has been with us, we have seen that some of his skill and the things he can do with the ball are astounding and he could be a frightening prospect," he said. "He has got so many plus points and to start picking out and highlighting whether he dives or not, suggesting that is the main thing about Benito, is a negative way of looking at things. I hope a mountain is not made out of a molehill."

FRANK CLARK relaxes before a game, writes. Please, image, the Notting Hill man, Benito, among his relatives, something that is admitted that Frank is the son of the 1960s and 1970s' Clash star, Campbell, and the son of Everton legend, the City's greatest considerate player, Simon. Simon, a former England international, through his son, Frank, is a

Blackburn-born of the FA Carling Premiership, plus the £50 million plus players coming to the West Ham, to which Harry Redknapp referred after his

Clark can help from

the level of the defen-

se, the level of the de-

fence, the level of the de-

FOOTBALL: EXPERIENCE TRIUMPHS AS ARSENAL SHOW NO MERCY TO THEIR FORMER MANAGER

Graham makes unhappy return

Arsenal 3
 Leeds United 0
 By ROB HUGHES
 FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

NEVER go back. George Graham knew, the moment that he returned to football and took the job of manager at Leeds United, the day that he would go back to the visitors' dug-out at Highbury. He could not have known that, after 50 seconds, it would be 1-0 to Arsenal, and that, after 56 minutes, age having emphatically conquered inexperience, his old team would have so trounced his new one that the giant screen would be trumpeting: "Allez les Rouges."

It really was hello and goodbye in the space of three minutes. A 38,076 crowd had arrived in anticipation. Graham sauntered down the tunnel just a couple of minutes before the whistle, turned left instead of his customary right and into a wall of sound that predominantly was an ovation for him, but also contained some shrill whistles of disapproval after the ignominious way that he took the money and was forced to leave Arsenal.

Those emotions, though, were abruptly ended by the Tannoy calling everyone to silence in respect of Matthew Harding, the late Chelsea vice-chairman, a silence itself broken by one or two lewd chants of foul-mouthed tribalism against Chelsea.

Then, those fatal 50 seconds. The first possession that Arsenal had was a throw-in on the left, the first touch of feet was Vieira's, the Senegalese-born midfield player. He, so tall at 6ft 3in, so co-ordinated for such a long-limbed athlete, simply ran with liberty. Ford was youth betrayed, selling himself in the tackle as Vieira drifted past; then Beesley also made a half-hearted tackle before Vieira, now some 40 yards on in the inside left position, realised that there was no cover and no order in Graham's defence.

He could have scored; instead, with his right foot, he sent a flicking pass out to the right, ushering in Dixon, one of Graham's old boys, to score with an angled shot past the stranded Martyn.

Welcome home, George. Four minutes later, men plumping from boys again; Seaman punted the ball long, Radcliffe made a hash of attempting to head it back to his goalkeeper and Bergkamp

glided into an identical position to that of Dixon, scoring with similar precision and power.

The game was up, the remnants of what Graham built knew too much for the inheritance he acquired. When the final goal came, after less than an hour of embarrassingly uncompetitive fare, there was a hint of injustice to it. Ford had been lying in the Leeds penalty area, and one thought that the referee would have to obey the mandatory order to stop the game for a head injury. Instead, he allowed Arsenal to take a free kick as Ford groggily rose to his feet. Winterburn chipped the ball forward, Bergkamp was clear behind a static defence and, from his cross, Wright easily scored his twelfth goal of the season.

An agile save by Martyn from Merson, equalled by one by Seaman from Deane, the substitute, was all that was left of the "contest", the result of which took Arsenal to the top of the FA Carling Premiership, above Newcastle United. Arsene Wenger, the studious French coach who, ultimately,

has taken Graham's place, and whose defence has not conceded a league goal for five games, said: "George Graham and I stayed at the same hotel on Friday night. I thanked him for leaving me this defence, and in the dressing-room I told the players that I knew this would be a special game for them, but it could not be a party, it was three points for us... they could show their respects to George Graham any way they chose afterwards.

"He tried not to let us play, because the pitch here is narrow. It is very difficult to build from the back when the opposition squeezes the spaces, but these players he brought here have won many trophies, and you don't accept getting older when you still have the will to be winners."

Not for the first time, Wenger put his finger on the crux of the matter. Arsenal's ageing players, winners before anything else, are not only proving durable but also appear to be adapting to new methods of training which emphasise the suppleness of the body and which put effectively a prohibition on too much alcohol. Wenger tells them that the time of an athlete is short, that nutrition and proper bodily preparation should be paramount.

Graham, willing to talk about anything other than Arsenal's boardroom, has more than a short-term injury crisis to cope with. "Rod Wallace took a phone call on his mobile as we set out," Graham said wryly. "He was told he was going to be a father, he wanted to be in at the birth, so that was another player lost. I've been very surprised at the size for lack of it of the squad at Leeds. Arsenal had Merson, Vieira and Platini in midfield; Leeds had Couzens, Ford and Sheper-



Vieira, who made Arsenal's first goal, leaves Sharpe sprawling to start another attack at Highbury

herd. That's how big the gap is."

His contention that his midfield trio, in which Shepherd, 18, made his debut, are overawed youngsters, is not entirely rational. Couzens and Ford each have a year more experience than Vieira, while Platini is not remotely as industrious as in his prime and Merson has a considerable personal challenge maintaining his rehabilitation.

Graham, though, admitted that he must now compromise

his refusal to buy cheap stop-gaps. "We would all like to jump from the basement to the penthouse," he said, "but I might have to go somewhere in between. I'd be a fool if I thought we could go straight to the top, but I'm not going to talk about survival."

One player he would dearly love to talk to is Tomas Brolin, £4 million worth of Leeds property who is AWOL over seas. "I don't want to get involved with the legal situation," Graham said, "but it's

amazing that any player who has a gift, who has a contract, can just stay away rather than coming back, facing whatever problem he had, and fulfil his contract. It's ridiculous, you have a gift in this game for eight to ten years, you've got to use it."

ARSENAL (3-2-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Adams, S Bould — L Dixon, P Merson, P Vieria, D Platini, N Mermillio (sub: S Mironov, T Sharpe), J Wright (sub: F Garske, BII). D Bergkamp.

LEEDS UNITED (2-5-2): N Martyn — P Venables, D Bowles, R Bowden, G Kelly, G Shepherd, A Couzens (sub: B Deane, BII), M Ford, L Sharpe — J Rush, I Harte. Referee: A Wilkie.

Celtic looking to Stubbs for leadership

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

On the June morning that Alan Stubbs agreed to join Celtic from Bolton Wanderers, a gleeful supporter said: "He really looks like a centre half, doesn't he?" Stubbs, a defender, is rugged and one could believe that those features have made a few critical interceptions in their time. On Saturday, however, it also became clear that his face fits.

Stubbs led out the Celtic team before the 4-0 victory over Hibernian at Easter Road and has taken over the captaincy from Peter Grant. The position is officially held by Paul McStay, but his ankle has been damaged by 16 years of professional football and even once a partial recovery is made it is expected that he will play only intermittently.

By a process of gradual succession, the job is passing to Stubbs. Discussion of captaincy can sound quaint, redundant as it is of old comic strips in which the man with the armband delivers some stirring words that impel the side to a cup-win against blackguardly opponents.

Such tales never were entirely faithful to the truth of football, but the discrepancy is now greater than ever. After the Bosman ruling, in particular, loyalty is a brief matter of contractual stipulation rather than emotional allegiance. In the circumstances, it may hardly seem to matter whether Stubbs or someone else, has the privilege of setting boot on the field just before the rest of his team.

There was a difficulty in identifying precisely how his life had changed on Saturday. Stubbs had, in fact, failed in the only obvious duty required of him when losing the toss for choice of end. The captain's role can often seem as ceremonial a position as that of a mace-bearer.

Yet it is an appointment that still somehow remains important. When Richard Gough confirmed, on Friday, that he will be leaving Rangers at the end of the season, the club knew that it had been notified of more than just another departure from Ibrox. As captain, he has been the embodiment of continuity.

In 1991, when Graeme Souness's decision to become Liverpool manager left Rangers in turmoil, Gough appeared at the subsequent press conferences.

There was speculation that he was being identified as a future member of the coaching staff, but the club's real intention was simply to demonstrate that sources of strength remained.

Gough, with his 16 winners' medals in domestic competition with Rangers, does lead by example on the field. For players of such single-mindedness, however, the title of captain is superfluous. Their effort and influence would prove just as great even if shaking hands with the referee was someone else's chore.

The captain's principal labours probably take place in an arena free of spectators. He is at the centre of all the issues that arise in a dressing-room. It is his mission to ferry to management all the complaints and queries that arise in even the best-paid workforce.

At Ibrox over the past ten years, though, the responsibilities have been more onerous still. With its great turnover of footballers, Rangers have to assimilate a stream of strangers.

Some bring to the club problems and the risk of disruption, but through it all Gough, in conjunction with his manager, is charged with maintaining harmony and establishing relationships.

The Rangers side, for whom Paul Gascoigne scored a hat-trick as Motherwell were beaten 5-0 on Saturday, continues to produce performances uncontaminated by the uproar surrounding the lives of some of its players. In addition to Gascoigne and the Scots, there were men from six other countries in the team at the weekend and bonds must be forged between all those backgrounds and cultures.

Curiously enough, it may be that, after Bosman, a club's choice of captain is a more important decision than it has ever been.

JAN STEWART



Gough, who is to leave Rangers at the end of the season, shields the ball from Burns, of Motherwell

Blackburn face harsh truth of life after Harford

David Miller sees the Ribble Valley's finest beaten 2-1 at West Ham United

Jack Walker has had his day, his moment of reward with the championship for the former mill town team of Blackburn Rovers, co-founders of the original Football League. Walker's passion for Rovers is equivalent to that of Matthew Harding's for Chelsea. For Blackburn, now is the uncomfortable time for reality: Chelsea is London, Blackburn is Ribble Valley.

Blackburn remain bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, narrowly and unluckily failing to gain their first win of the season against a mid-table West Ham United side that blew pretty bubbles but, too often, not much else.

Yet Blackburn's four bookings in the first half revealed the level of the determination, plus the £30 million-worth of unfit players on the sidelines, to which Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, referred afterwards, that may

indeed lift them to safety. The harsh truth is that the little Lancashire club, with a population of just over 100,000, is no more destined to boast a permanent front-line team than are, say, Norwich or Bolton, with larger populations. The return of Kenny Dalglish and perhaps more of Walker's millions would be no guarantee of a return to glory. Blackburn's potential is, at best, for repectability and the occasional cup run, never mind that the loyal local support of some 17,000 is proportionally the highest of any club in the top two professional divisions.

Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager once more, sent out his team in a new 4-5-1 formation, with Fenton alone up front. For 76 minutes, his strategy seemed about to be rewarded. The tenacity of Sherwood, the disaffected McKinlay and Flitcroft in

central midfield, together with Wilcox and Donis on the flanks, left West Ham, without the midfield ball-winner — apart from Bowen, who was injured and substituted at half-time — looking no more than attractive bantamweights. Nottingham Forest must have played indifferently to have lost to them so emphatically in midweek.

Playing with three at the back in a 3-5-2 formation, West Ham were too self-assured for their own comfort and went behind after only eight minutes. A corner by Wilcox was glanced on by Sherwood and banged home, low down, by Berg. For the rest of the half, Blackburn repeatedly nobbled West Ham in the defensive third of the field with a collective spirit

that occasionally boiled into moments of bad temper. The Upton Park faithful had little to cheer but the wily runs in attack by Porfirio, the Portuguese.

Now and then, Lazaridis, on West Ham's left flank, who has the character of a Grand National stayer — no great pace, but a steady long stride that carries him clear — threatened to unhinge Blackburn's worthy lead, but through the middle Dowie was working hard but to no great effect.

With an hour gone,

Redknapp took a gamble, replacing Moncur in midfield with Fitter, Porfirio's compatriot and another with a nose for the opposition's weak spot. Critically, he began to play the ball forward more, than side-

ways and soon Blackburn were needing sandbags to stem the tide.

From a free kick, Hughes drove furiously for goal, Flowers making a superb save — Flowers, who, technically, should earlier have been off the field, instead of merely being booked, for callously telling Dowie on the 18-yard line when the burly forward had backed past him with an empty net waiting.

Next, Dowie's driving header, from a long diagonal cross by Breaker, flew just over the bar and, although at the other end, Wilcox squandered an open chance from 14 yards to put Blackburn two up. West Ham were by now hot on the scent.

Dowie just failed, lunging three yards out, to connect with a cross from Lazaridis in the next breath, Dowie, put clear on the right by Dicks's long cross-field ball, centred for Porfirio to level the score.

With five minutes remaining, Lazaridis again bamboozled Blackburn's right flank and the unhappy Berg, attempting to intercept the centre, spectacularly headed into his own net. A cruel reverse. The overbalance in attack that Redknapp had risked had paid off.

Ray Harford had said upon resignation that succeeding Dalglish was impossible and Parkes 26 years with the club as player and coach reflected that succeeding Harford "is what's after impossible". Now Blackburn face Liverpool at home. The path ahead is tough indeed.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-1-1): M McAdam — M Parker, S Bowles, M Mowbray (sub: T Bradshaw, 46min), M Hughes, A Morris (sub: P Flitcroft, 62), Bishop, S Lazaridis — D Dowie, H Porfirio (sub: F Lampard, 89). BLACKBURN (4-5-1-1): M Flitcroft, J Kerrison, H Bowden, N Walker, G S Saa (sub: G Croft, 84) — G Donis (sub: S Ripley, 78), T Sherwood, W McInroy, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — G Fenton (sub: M Reed).

Clark calls for a little help from his friends

FRANK CLARK is known to relax by strumming gently on his guitar (Richard Hobson writes). Contrary to a dour image, he is the life and soul of the Nottingham Forest Christmas party with his range of Beatles cover versions. *Let It Be*, however, is unlikely to be among his present repertoire. Clark, the Forest manager, realises that he has to do something to arrest the declining fortunes of a club that, he admitted last week, is in crisis. Forest are third from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership and Steve Stone and Kevin Campbell are injured.

While Joe Royle, the manager of Everton, the opposition at the City Ground tonight, can consider spending £10 million on Nick Barmby and Trevor Sinclair, Clark knows that any money that he generates through sales is likely to be absorbed by the bank. Forest

overall debt is believed to be around £15 million and the board of directors is split on the subject of takeover offers, which will occupy time at the annual meeting on Saturday.

Curiously, the defence, which proved the strength of their European campaign — they reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup last season — has been a weakness this term, having conceded four goals in a game on three occasions.

Nikola Jerkan, the Croatian sweeper, is still coming to terms with English football, and Clark said: "A number of key players are just not performing, not doing what I tell them, and when you start getting bad results, the problem snowballs.

The takeover business should not have an effect on the players and I will not use that as an excuse."

Adrian Fletcher

the BBC1 stage managers insisted on repeating the whole thing. Then, finally, the southern section. An "ooh" for every name, an "aah" for each that slipped away. A big shout for Peterborough United, a sigh of dismay as the wave of expectation washed away with the words, Bath City or Cheltenham Town.

At last: Wisbech Town. A roar. This was the moment... St Albans City. Cries of disbelief, beer split in outrage. Yet another Ioris premier division club, away — and lost 5-1. Surely, this time they would be given Football League opponents.

Eddie Anderson, the chairman, appropriately, came to his senses quickest. "If you can't have a big Football League club, where the financial reward is going to be then I think the best that you can have is a match you have a realistic chance of winning," he said. Grabbing his wife, Tina, he said: "Meet the treasurer — she can still see £100."

For Ian Jones, the manager, known universally as Jigger, "no story there I'm afraid. I've been called that since I was a nipper" — the draw was a clear disappointment. A positive mood, fired by the

thought of Wisbech bookmakers taking a hammering at 6-1 after his side's achievement at Hitchin, swiftly surfaced. "We've gone a notch up by getting a home draw," he said. Certainly, his team is not

FIRST ROUND DRAW

| |
|--|
| Northern section |
| Blackpool v Wigan Athletic |
| Boston United v Lancaster City or Morecambe |
| Burnley v Lincoln City |
| Carlisle United v Shrewsbury Dynamo |
| Chester City v Stalybridge United |
| Cheshunt v Bury |
| Cohyn Bay v Wrexham |
| Crawley Alexandra v Kidderminster Harriers |
| Hartlepool United v York City |
| Hednesford Town v Spennymoor United or Southport |
| Macclesfield Town v Rochdale |
| Manfield v Notts County |
| Newcastle Town v Walsall |
| Northwich Victoria v Walsall |
| Preston North End v Barrow or Alnwick |
| Runcorn v Darlington |
| Southern section |
| Ashford Town v Dagenham and Redbridge |
| Boreham Wood v Rushden and Diamonds |
| Torquay United v Luton Town |
| Welling Town v St Albans City |
| Woking v Millwall |

Cambridge United v Welling United

Cardiff City v Hastings Town or Hendon

Colchester United v Wycombe Wanderers

Farnborough Town v Barnet

Gillingham v Hereford United

Leyton Orient v Merthyr Tydfil

Northampton Town v Watford

Peterborough United v Bath City or Cheltenham Town

Plymouth Argyle v Fulham

Stevenage Borough v Hayes

Sudbury Town v Brighton and Hove Albion

Swansea City v Bristol City

Torquay United v Luton Town

Welling Town v St Albans City

Woking v Millwall

a fish business — is a commanding central defender.

</div

RUGBY UNION

Lloyd stands out as Leicester weather storm

Pau 14
Leicester 19

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PAU

MANCHESTER CITY
but only Mai by we critics fined & Mar should Wolves set up pressers a & appro Steve has his cers. Um ahead dem & appro Steve has his cers. Wo place wide result this passi traor succs Moli. Ma er, s. peop have our l this Emb back diffe then scorr

LEICESTER may no longer be the people's favourites in England, but their adhesive qualities are serving them well in Europe. Victory at the Stade du Hameau here on Saturday came at a cost, but they remain unbeaten in pool B of the Heineken Cup, certain to qualify for the quarter-finals whatever the outcome of their home game against Llanelli on Saturday.

Leicester also saw the light and shade which Anglo-French contests so frequently provoke: both Leicester tries, by Joel Rey and the 19-year-old wing, Leon Lloyd, will rank among the individual highlights of this competition, yet must be set against the sight of John Wells on his knees after the eye-gouging which is so regrettable a feature of French forward play.

Last week in Toulouse it was Cardiff who complained while, on the same day in Llanelli, Pau were themselves debasing the currency of French rugby as two of their players were dismissed. Here Pau, desperate to recover lost ground in their own stadium, where they have lost only once in the past two seasons, found their set-piece power nullified and allowed their frustrations to show once more.

They were at a loss to understand the Ken McCartney, the referee's instructions for engagement at the scrums and Rey claimed that he had been penalised more in Pau's past two games

than in the previous four years. But Johnson, Cockerill and finally the phlegmatic Wells all had to receive attention to their eyes. "The French know what the problem is," Wells said. "It's up to the player to have the moral responsibility not to do it."

That Pau were clearly the better side behind the scrum made their disappointment harder to bear. Where Leicester looked ill at ease with ball in hand, such players as David Dantiacq made the passing game a thing of magic. Three times he split the defence, only for a desperate hand to intervene, and, in the final minute, he was over the line but, to an angry roar from the crowd, was brought back for a-forward pass.

European results and pool tables Page 39

Thus it was hugely ironic that Lloyd should have scored a try of such quality to bring Leicester back to within a point and give them the confidence they so clearly lacked in the first half. The young wing, a product of the Barkers Butts club in Coventry, was picked ahead of England's most capped player, Rory Underwood, and showed exactly why: at 6ft 4in and 14 stone, he is more Emil Ntamack than Jonah Lomu and possesses the same lithe qualities as the outstanding Toulouse and France wing.

It was the only time in the match that Leicester's passing matched their vision. Malone saw the space on the left from broken play. Poole provided the unlikely link but Lloyd had

had accumulated a 14-6 lead by the interval and might have had more than just the one try, which came from an ingenious move at a short lineout: Roles, whose efforts prevented an even more complete Leicester domination of the set-piece, flicked his tap-down inside to Passicos and the little scrum half switched the ball behind the breaking Leicester forwards to Rey, who just managed to control it before plunging into the corner.

Rey's front-row compatriot, the excitable Triep-Capdeville, attracted a yellow card as did Garforth, both for dangerous use of the boot, but after Lloyd's try Leicester settled to their task. Rob Riley's third penalty goal gave them the lead for the first time, his fourth forced Pau to go for a try in the hope of a winning conversion. Against a less durable side, they might have done so, but Leicester were in no mood to concede so rare an opportunity.

SCORERS: Pau: Try: Rey. Penalty goals: Ausigne (2). Dropped goal: Ausigne. Leicester: Try: Lloyd. Conversion: Riley. Penalty goals: Poole, Dantiacq, T. Casterline, C. Passicos, T. Casterline, J. Rey, S. Brus, S. Koen, T. Casterline, A. Lomu, R. Cockerill, D. Garforth, J. Wells, R. Johnson, M. Poole, W. Dantiacq. D. Dantiacq (15min), Lloyd replaced by R. Underwood (62). Referee: K. McCartney (Scotland).

In June, the RFU announced its five-year deal with BSkyB, worth £87.5 million, of which £22.5 million was earmarked for the leading clubs. Neither side can afford to lose that kind of money — not the RFU, with a £34 million debt on the West Stand at Twickenham, nor the clubs, with soaring wage bills, promotional and organisational costs.

It is possible that Sam Chisholm, the chief executive of BSkyB (the satellite television company part-owned by News International, owners of *The Times*), whose contract

Deadline may force peace to break out

THERE are hopes that the dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading English clubs will be brought to a head on Thursday, if a meeting under the auspices of BSkyB can be agreed by all parties (David Hands writes). Concern has also been expressed by senior figures in the other home unions and France about the damaging effects of the dispute.

It is possible that Sam Chisholm, the chief executive of BSkyB (the satellite television company part-owned by News International, owners of *The Times*), whose contract

with the RFU earlier this year created a potential rift in the five nations' championship, will set a November deadline, after which the company will withdraw its support for British rugby.

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CHANGING TIMES

Bristol intent on taking French lesson to heart

Bristol 14
Castres 27

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

BRISTOL had fancied their chances in the European Conference this season. "I certainly thought we could get into the final stages," Alan Davies, the club coach, said. However, successive defeats against Bridgend, Narbonne and now Castres, at the Memorial Ground on Saturday, have rendered the remaining trip, to Dinamo Bucharest this weekend, meaningless, at least in competitive terms.

Narbonne and Castres will represent pool B in the Conference quarter-finals next month and Davies, for one, has already made the French connection. A long-time admirer of the club scene across the English Channel, he is attempting to replicate their formula for success at Bristol. "We need to match their level of professionalism," Davies said. "The clubs are totally focused." He admires the way that they retain an army of former players to work behind the scenes, the way senior club officials are prepared to run on water during stoppages. "The support staff has a big effect on the players," he said.

On the field, Davies envies the physical French packs, with one or two "gorillas" in their midst. Outside this, they have the handlers and runners who could and should have doubled the tally of four Castres tries on Saturday.

"It is always great to play against the French," Davies said. "You get a different form of aggression and the game is much quicker. I have always

said that we need to mix parts of the French game into ours."

Another of the coach's priorities is a commitment to emerging young players, but even he would concede that to field front-row forwards aged 20, 21 and 23 was taking youth development too far too soon. "We needed more maturity," he conceded later.

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Reading hit back to earn joint leadership

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

AFTER defeating Teddington 3-1 on Saturday, Old Loughtonians completed a strenuous weekend with a 5-2 home win against Guildford at Chigwell yesterday to retain joint leadership of the National League.

Paul Dover, a talented mid-field performer, provided the day's best moment in yesterday's match which was dominated by Old Loughtonians in both periods. Returning from temporary suspension, he covered half the length of the field at high speed to lay on Ralph's goal which sealed victory three minutes before the end.

Ian Jennings, Guildford's centre half, briefly held the stage with a goal from a short corner to bring his aggregate since the start of the league in 1988 to 151. The goal by Jennings had cut Old Loughtonians' lead to 2-1 but he was denied another soon after when Seaton in goal deflected his shot with a splendid diving save.

Nick Thompson, from a short corner and a penalty stroke, Philpot, and Morrison from a short corner were the other scorers for Old Loughtonians. Apart from Jennings, Matton replied for Guildford.

A goal by Ashdown with only three minutes to spare enabled Reading to snatch a 4-3 home win over Teddington after a dour struggle. The score at half-time was 2-2, and then Teddington went ahead after the interval, but Reading hit back to earn joint leadership with Old Loughtonians.

Reading's other scorers were Pearn and Wyatt from a short corner and a penalty stroke. McGuire with two goals, his second from a penalty stroke, and Billson replied for Teddington. Mark Hoskin of Reading was ordered from the bench by the match delegate after he had reacted strongly to a head injury suffered by his brother Howard.

Cannock remained in touch with 9-4 home victory over Surbiton, establishing a 4-1 lead by half-time after Hussain had reduced their early 2-0 lead. Crutchley's five goals, added to the three he scored on Saturday in the 5-1 defeat of Barford Tigers, took his tally for the season to 20 in seven matches. Edwards and Parnham from a short corner added to the two goals scored by Organ.

Southgate trounced Barford Tigers 7-1 yesterday with two goals apiece by Woods and Simons. Waugh, Gibbons and Danny Kerr added to the score before Dharmin Singh replied from a penalty stroke.

Cardiff conquer nerves to reach quarter-finals

Cardiff 41
Milan 19

BY GERALD DAVIES

CARDIFF, in winning by three goals, a try and five penalty goals to a goal and four penalty goals, go through to the quarter-finals of the Heineken Cup. Who they play will depend on results next weekend.

This was no more than a rugged, penalty-strewn contest made manifestly more difficult by the wet and windy conditions. Neither side proved capable of rising above the elements. Milan were clearly unaccustomed to them while Cardiff preferred to complicate their tactics rather than pursue the more direct

route that the weather demanded yesterday.

The home team, in their urgency to get on with things, were guilty of passing errors and other misjudgments while Milan, also too eager, regularly over-stepped the mark. Five times in quick succession after the kick-off, they were penalised for offside. This gave Cardiff the early territorial advantage and despite their initial nervousness, they made certain that the scoreboard reflected this domination.

Humphries was the first to make in-roads, followed by Taylor. A swift change of direction by Hall wrong-footed the Milan defence and the centre scored near the post for the first try in the fifth minute. This was soon followed by another. Inevita-

bly, bearing in mind the way he is responding to the European challenge, it was Howley who registered the points.

From Stewart's defection at the lineout on the Milan 22-metre line, the Cardiff scrum half took a course around the back and found his way to the line unopposed to score his sixth try of the competition. Two Jarvis conversions and a penalty took the Cardiff score to 17 points in as many minutes.

Looking uncomfortable on a rain-sodden pitch, and with a stiff breeze in their faces, the Italians had made little impression at this stage. Cardiff's first-time tackling ensured the visitors were invariably in retreat.

The home team had had to alter their lineout plans before the game

began after Derwyn Jones had to withdraw with an injury sustained in the pre-match warm-up. He was replaced by Keith Stewart, who in turn had to be replaced by Lee Jones in the 26th minute.

It was not so much this disruption that saw Cardiff's authority fade in the latter part of the half. Rather, it was their lack of direction.

Ian Jones, who had come on as temporary replacement for Thomas at full back, did cross over for a try but it was disallowed when the touch judge drew the referee's attention to a misdemeanour by Andrew Lewis. This was a sign of things to come.

Instead of driving home their superiority in the forwards, Cardiff lapsed into aimless tactics between

the two 22-metre lines. Milan drew encouragement from this and it was they who ended the half with greater purpose.

Dominguez's two penalties were cancelled out by two from Jarvis but Marengoni's try and the conversion by Dominguez brought the visitors to 23-13, within reach of Cardiff's score, something which earlier they could hardly have hoped for.

Dominguez and Jarvis once more exchanged penalties. The game was now beginning to deteriorate. Milan seemed the main transgressors, with the penalty count at one period in the second half going ten to one against them. In total, it was 27-13 throughout the match. They hardly seemed to recognise the offside line. Frustration set in and both Ringer

and Perzzi were shown the yellow card, the former for a late tackle the other for booting an opponent. Jarvis succeeded with two penalties, as did Dominguez, but tries by Justin Thomas and Bennett, one of which Jarvis converted, proved to be the only highlights in the final, bleak ten minutes.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Try: Hall, Howley, Thomas, Bennett. Conversions: Jarvis (3). Penalty goals: Jarvis (5). Milan: Try: Marengoni. Conversions: Dominguez. Penalty goals: Dominguez (4).

CARDIFF: J Thomas; S Hill, M Hall, I Davies, N Young, L Lewis, R Howley, L Lewis, C Lampard, D Young; J Perzzi, J Hall, K Stewart, K Bennett, H Taylor. Stewart replaced by L Jones (26th); Lewis replaced by J Musso (70); I Jones temporary replacement for Thomas (17-3).

MILAN: P Vassalli, R Cacciari, G Bonomi, G Ferraris, G D'Amato, F Giorgi, F Gori, G Gori, G Grost, P Orlando, O Aranci, Williams replaced by M Plasmati (42nd).

Referee: S Poerz (France).

RUGBY UNION

French turn up heat too high for Harlequins

Brive 23
Harlequins 15

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN BRIVE

WHO would argue with 15,000 passionate Frenchmen amid the tumult, drums and chants of their own municipal stadium? This is what European competition is all about and it proved far too much for Harlequins as their unbeaten record shattered and died in the face of a Brive side inspired to salvage *la gloire* tarnished for France the previous day.

Saturday brought three French defeats in the Heineken Cup; yesterday, Brive raised their black and white banner high to take over the leadership of Pool C among quite extraordinary scenes. With the game deep into injury time, Sébastien Carrat, the competition's leading try scorer, raced 85 metres for Brive's only try and the pitch was invaded by dancing, singing locals. They deferred the end by only seconds; Christophe Lamaison missed the conversion, but it mattered little as Graham Crothers himself a replacement in the second half for the injured Irish referee Brian Stirling — called a halt to the frantic action with which Harlequins had never come to terms.

In their first foray into Europe to another passionate stadium in Belfast, Harlequins nearly lost to Ulster and now they have a better idea of what their domestic record is worth. "This was a different league," Richard Best, their director of rugby, said. "It was a very big learning experience for all of us."

Brive are by no means France's most successful side — three home wins balance three away defeats this league season — but they are hugely proud of their town and they boast inspirational playmakers in Alain Penaud, the France stand-off half, and Sébastien Viars. They are much changed from the XV that lost the French final to Toulouse last season, but there could have been no greater commitment to a cause.

Brive put together a balanced diet of strong set-piece play allied to the all-round skills of Penaud, who mixed daring runs with little grub kicks behind the defence. Indeed, the examination of the Harlequins back three began early, when Staples was badly shaken in a tackle before a minute had passed. Instantly, Viars launched a second high

ball and Staples, again, was forced to take his punishment. The Ireland full back had enough zest to join the attack as Harlequins looked to move the ball wide, but, before the first quarter was over, he was led out with bruised ribs. At that stage, Harlequins led 10-3. Carling opened events with an angled penalty goal and Challinor added a try after the spadework had been done by Watson, Gareth Lewellyn and Cabannes.

Harlequins were not to know then that they had reached their apogee. Brive settled down to retrieve the lineout deficit and edged their way back into the fray. Lamaison chipped over two simple penalties and Penaud dropped a goal.

Harlequins missed a splendid opportunity when Carling's pass dropped behind Paul with the line looming and, when Carbonneau scrambled a close-range dropped goal from a ruck, Brive turned round leading 12-10. Connolly's attacking skills were obvious, but they were not matched by his colleagues, knocked out of the stride with which they have jumped to the head of the Courage Clubs Championship.

Lamaison greeted the second half with two more penalties and, as time wore on, Harlequins found themselves in a tactical muddle, first rejecting kicks at goal in favour of tapped penalties, even though time remained on their side, and then opting to give Carling, then Challinor, longer kicks after they had failed to break the defence. Worse, individuals such as Cabannes and Wood tried to imprint their character on the match and were cut down.

The match lost shape as replacements came and went, yet Harlequins could count themselves unfortunate when Williams was not awarded an impetus try. Instead, he was penalised for playing the ball in the tackle, and, with the stadium in a mounting frenzy, Connolly too, found himself laid low, the loose ball was moved swiftly to Carrat, who brought the house down with his *pièce de résistance*.

SCORERS: Brive: Try: Carrat. Penalty goals: Lamaison (2), Vassalli, G Fabre, D Vendetti, G Lemoine, S Carrat, A Penaud, P Carbonneau, D Cascio, L Travers, R Crosby, G Kalala, E Allegret, A Rose, Y Dubois, J Penaud, Y Dubois, Y Dubois (2). Penaud replaced by G Rose (87). Crosby replaced by A Bourcet (79). Fabre replaced by P Penaud (78). Penaud, Vassalli, G Fabre, D Vendetti, G Lemoine, S Carrat, A Penaud, P Carbonneau, D Cascio, L Travers, R Crosby, G Kalala, E Allegret, A Rose, Y Dubois, J Penaud, Y Dubois, Y Dubois (2). Penaud replaced by G Rose (87). Crosby replaced by A Bourcet (79). Penaud replaced by P Penaud (78). Penaud, Vassalli, G Fabre, D Vendetti, G Lemoine, S Carrat, A Penaud, P Carbonneau, D Cascio, L Travers, R Crosby, G Kalala, E Allegret, A Rose, Y Dubois, J Penaud, Y Dubois, Y Dubois (2). Penaud replaced by G Rose (87). Crosby replaced by A Bourcet (79). Penaud replaced by P Penaud (78). 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Swallow facing a critical decision over where to fly

Craig Lord meets a young sportswoman already showing real potential in the pool and on the track

TO SWIM or to run? That is the question for Jodie Swallow. The answer is clearly both — at least for the time being; in two days last July, Swallow, 15, scooped the national junior 400 metres individual medley title in the pool one day and became national schools 3,000 metres champion on the track the next.

That rare talent was being put to the test again in Luton on Saturday, when, on the raucous and somewhat steamy occasion of the 47th English schools' national swimming championships. Swallow spread her wings over the water at Wardown baths to retain the intermediate (14-16 years) 4 x 66.7 metres individual medley title (the distance a throwback to the days of perverse planning) for "division S" (roughly, eastern flank, one of 12 regions carved out for the unique purpose of the event).

But for alien race distance, the annual gala has much to teach the mainstream sport, with its deeply competitive environment, one where the boundless energies of 500 or so of England's fastest fish are fed by the banner-waving, horn-blowing passions of proud parents and grandparents aloft in the packed seating.

Organisers and the likes of Kelvin Juba, who brought in Uncle Ben's as sponsor, have helped to generate that atmosphere by coding the events by colour and by numbered caps. The result, a jamboree for talent scouts, and one that this year brought victory, and the May Bennett Trophy, to division 5, or all points west of Wiltshire. Swallow was among a

pean junior championships in July, covered seven kilometres in water in each training session, and there were two a day.

Her precocity evident in her sport but, pleasantly, not in her attitude, Swallow is young enough to qualify for the European event again next year, with her target a medal. However, with the demands of swimming training so much greater, and the potential rewards far slimmer than in running, some wonder whether Swallow will drift to dry land.

Her father, Peter, a teacher, does not see his daughter's choice as being Hobsonian.

"Swimmers tend to peak quite a bit earlier than runners," he said. "If she makes it to the very top in swimming, she could do that first and move on to the running later, I think that's how she sees it." For now, Swallow trains far more in water than on land, running restricted to four or five sessions a week, mainly in lunch break.

Like Sally Gunnell, her sporting heroine, Swallow hails from Essex. Born in Romford and nurtured as an athlete at Brentwood running club, and by Dave Petegate, at the swimming club of the same place, she has just switched allegiance to the Killerwhales swim squad of Mike Drew at Havering, where she hopes to reap the benefits of training with a larger squad and stepping up her workload. Progress has begun, half-term bringing a doubling of efforts at an intensive training camp in north Wales. Swallow, eighth in the final of the 400 metres individual medley at the Euro-



IN SCHOOLS

handful of outstanding talents. Her winning medley time of 3min 12.76sec was just a stroke shy of the 1985 schools record of Zara Long, who, at 13, made the 1984 Olympic team.

With the two sports in mind,



Swallow prepares to swim in the English schools championships at Luton

have to say "Oh no you're not. Rest". There's also the safety factor these days of just letting her go off running alone."

So does he accompany her? "Well, yes, sometimes, but I'm afraid it's a bit like taking the dog for a walk — I can't keep up," he said.

Swallow's father said:

"She'll get back from a hard

swimming session, sit down for a few minutes and then say, right, I'm off for a run. I

He and his wife, Jan, know what lies ahead. Joanna, their eldest daughter, followed them into the worlds of running and swimming, where twice-daily, hourly round trips from pool to the Coopers' Coburn School that Swallow attends are a way of life.

"There's years of it to come," Peter Swallow said, managing a smile as he raised his eyes heavenward, more to God, it seems, than to the five-metre diving board where his daughter was being photographed — and not, in all likelihood, for the last time.

RUGBY LEAGUE: INJURIES AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS UNDERMINE LIONS' PREPARATIONS FOR FINAL TEST IN NEW ZEALAND

Great Britain morale at low ebb in dying days of tour

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE
IN CHRISTCHURCH

IF ONLY the problems for the Great Britain party, which limped into Christchurch yesterday for the final tour match on Friday, ended at an already lost cause in the international series against New Zealand and a lengthy injury list.

Financially, the tour is heading for a £500,000 loss and there is a struggle to pay bills on the final leg. The crowds have been disappointing, for which the New Zealand Rugby League must take a large part of the blame. Promotion

has been almost non-existent and gate receipts were grossly underestimated.

When the Rugby Football League bizarrely recalled nine healthy players from the party without warning last week, it is estimated the saving was a meagre £5,000. It was a dreadfully misguided decision that quickly rebounded. Keith Senior, the Sheffield back, was one of those heading home when he was called back and Tuisen Tollett, of London Broncos, might also be recalled from holiday in Sydney.

Morale among the 21 players left was badly affected by

the episode and was not helped by New Zealand winning the series last Friday. There is only consolation to play for in the final match and last night Phil Larder, the Great Britain coach, did not even have 17 fit players to choose from.

The fact that insufficient funds exist to even take the players to a restaurant illustrates the tour's parlous state. In giving a comparison, Phil Lowe, the team manager, said: "Rugby union gives England players £70,000 to put themselves out a bit when they get called into the squad. Our lads

have to wait three months for their petrol expenses. The whole thing stinks."

Lowe urged a review of the funding and arrangements of future tours. The loss situation would probably not have arisen in Australia, where healthy revenues are virtually guaranteed, but Australia's disappearance off the original itinerary, before the reinstatement of Super League there, and the thrown-together nature of the six-week visit to Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand, have compounded the losses.

Larder has given the players

three days off to mentally and physically recuperate. Anthony Sullivan, who strained a hamstring in the Lions' 18-15 defeat by New Zealand, and Alan Hunt, his St Helens colleague, who has an elbow infection similar to the one that caused Tony Smith to be sent home yesterday, are giving Larder the most cause for concern.

Wigan are close to signing Ofisi Tonu'u, 26, the Auckland rugby union scrum half, and Robert Henare, the impressive Junior Kiwis captain and prop forward, is to join them next season.

Hunte elbow infection

Photo: PA

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THE BUSINESS
OF SPORT

THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

SPORT 37

RACING: PILSUDSKI POWERS HOME TO HEAD STOUTE'S ONE-TWO IN BREEDERS' CUP TURF

Swinburn rides high on tide of emotion

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT AT WOODBINE, TORONTO

THERE are few greater injustices than those perpetrated by statistics. Nevertheless, the delight of Michael Stoute and Walter Swinburn in winning the Breeders' Cup Turf with Pilsudski was plainly evident here yesterday. Cast as the fall-guys, both men were fully entitled to the sun.

S tone's record at the Breeders' Cup has been miserable. He was without a win after 14 runners, the most saddled by a British trainer, and his horses had been dismissed locally on those grounds alone. "It was beginning to irritate," Stoute admitted. "All the big races are hard to win but this must rank alongside winning the

Derby because it has taken so long."

As for Swinburn, he could not resist a jibe at Jerry Bailey, his tormentor among American jockeys. At 0-18, Swinburn's record was even more lamentable. And he said of Bailey, who brought Cigar five horses wide round the bend en route to a narrow defeat in the Classic: "I'd love to have seen Frankie [Detori] ride the horse. He would have won by two lengths."

There were tears aplenty from Swinburn, who still harbours the demons from that horrific spill in Hong Kong in February. "It has been a pretty rough year for me," he said. "My whole aim was just to get back riding. After what has happened since August 11 [when he returned with a winner at Windsor], I'm just waiting for someone to wake me up."

THUNDERER
12.45 Bayin
1.15 Cats Bottom
1.45 Suave Star
2.15 Memorise

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.45 MISS GOLDEN SANDS.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.45 Mirror Four Life. 2.15 Memorise.
3.45 MISS GOLDEN SANDS (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.45 THRUSSINGTON HANDICAP
(Div 1: £3,507; 21/8yd) (22 runners)

101 (14) 512000 BEE HEALTH BOY 37 (D,F,S) (Bee Health) M W Estuary 3-0-2 G Parton (5) R Steed 95
102 (10) 000000 BAY'S 5 (D,F,S) (7 Batter) M Usher 7-12
103 (5) 000000 CHEVY CHASE 3 (D,F,S) (Chevy Chase) D Chapman 5-0-10 A Colman 95
104 (11) 000000 HAMBOURNE 10 (D,F,S) (Hambo) J Corder 9-10 G Parton 95
105 (12) 133400 RAMBOULD 42 (D,F,S) (7 Batter) M Berry 5-6
106 (13) 000000 BEAN VENTURE 19 (D,F,S) (Bean's Secret) P Polito 8-0-5... T Spokes 90
107 (30) 000000 SE ME 8 (D,F,S) (Me's Secret) W Mat 4-3... J Reid 90
108 (2) 000000 PETRACE 34 (D,F,S) (Petra) J Smith 8-5-3... J Denzel 90
109 (1) 000000 RUMBLE 10 (D,F,S) (Rumble) K Muller 8-0-5... K Muller 95
110 (6) 000000 COTTER 9-4 (D,F,S) (Cotter) P McColgan 4-4-11 P McColgan 95
111 (2) 000000 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 5 (D,F,S) (Another Nightmare) R McColgan 4-4-11 P McColgan 95
112 (12) 000000 HALBERT 22 (F) (Halbert) M Berry 5-5-4 G Corder 95
113 (3) 000000 HALBERT 22 (F) (Halbert) P Burgess 7-0-2 G Corder 95
114 (18) 000000 FEASTHORPE 14 (D,F,S) (Feasthorse) M Robson 7-0-2... N Colman 94
115 (20) 000000 TUNBRIDGE LANE 49 (F) (Tunbridge Lane) A Sheller 4-7-13 J Colman 94
116 (21) 000000 MAYBURN 31 (D,F,S) (Mayburn) J Colman 4-7-13 J Colman 94
117 (22) 000004 DISSENTOR 30 (D,F,S) (Disentor) J Colman 4-7-12 J Colman 94
118 (15) 000000 POLLY PU 4 (A Broad Arrow) W Brabham 4-7-10 R Mullen 94
119 (19) 000000 HOMEBALM 20 (D,F,S) (Homebalm) M Bryant 3-7-10 G Parker 94
120 (16) 000000 IMPERIAL RED 91 (D,F,S) (Imperial Red) K Parker 3-7-10 G Parker 94
121 (17) 000000 MAJ-AIRIK 71 (D,F,S) (C Ruler) G Odeberg 4-7-10 G Parker 94
122 (18) 000000 BEE HEALTH BOY 37 (D,F,S) (Bee Health) M Usher 7-12 G Parker 94
123 (19) 000000 BEE'S 5-1 (D,F,S) (Bee's) J Parker 7-12 G Parker 94
124 (20) 000000 CATS BOTTOM 15 (D,F,S) (Cats Bottom) M Berry 3-7-10 G Parker 94
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Booked: Grayson, Heskey

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Booked: Gurney, P Beasley, P Shepherd

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Rashford, K Kelly, C Palmer, L Radcliffe, L Sharp, I Rash, N Hand, N Ford, A Coates (sub: B Done, 45min), P Beasley, P Shepherd
Booked: Rashford, Palmer, Coates, Ford
Referee: A Webb.

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Jennai Cox visits a touring training camp where top athletes coax potential from the next generation

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SPORT FOR ALL



High on winning silver at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, the Great Britain 4x400 metres relay team have been spreading their success. Roger Black and Co have, since their return, hosted 11 track and field meetings for the next athletic generation. The team's youth and achievement has brought more than just hope. Being taught by Olympic medal-winners, barely out of their teens makes a child's dream of reaching the Games seem more real.

Rather than a stream of talent-hunting days, the initiative has concentrated on the fun side of sport and the benefits of family involvement. Identification of sporting talent remains closed, a Sports Council report suggests, excluding many from entering sport. Time, therefore, has been spent talking to and coaching the every-child.

Adrian Thomas, the national relay squad coach, who attended the fast roadshow at Morfa Stadium, in Swansea, last week, says that days spent scouring for talent put pressure on athletes and children. "This way, they have a good time and learn more about what it takes to become a champion," Thomas said.

Most, though not all, of the 60 boys and girls who attended the TSB Team coaching day at Swansea swim, play netball or football at school and in their spare time. They turned up to learn, not to prove their ability.

"Remember," Thomas told them, "not all of those who are champions today were much good when they were young."

Neither Sally Gunnell nor Black were outstanding as juniors and, until four years, Iwan Thomas, 22, was a BMX racing champion. He now has an Olympic silver medal.

Yet, when performing in front of world-class athletes, children try to do better than their best. Talent was there, and it did not go unnoticed.

"It's amazing," Jamie

Baulch, 23, who ran the second leg of the relay in Atlanta, said, "One kid was doing a baton handover completely wrong. After I showed him, he looks like a pro."

Each coaching day started with a mass group warm-up round the track.

"You must do stretching before any type of exercise," Baulch told the children as he demonstrated large hip swivels. Drills by relay team members followed before the children were taught the block position for sprinting, how to start and finish a hurdles race and all types of track jumping.

Half an hour of questions and answers followed lunch. What type of food should we eat? What is it like winning a medal at the Olympics? How much training do you do? These were some of the queries, revealing the earnest intent of many of the youngsters. Do as much sport as you can and as many different kinds, the children, aged from 11 to 18, were told.

In a technological age, the simple things, like sport, should be more important than ever, Black said. While sport still attracts to get more than a couple of hours a week on many school timetables, days spent with heroes are invaluable.

Almost 70 per cent of teachers said that they find it difficult to motivate children to do sport, according to a recent London survey. Baulch had no such difficulty. When a friendly, good-looking silver medal-winner is coaching, sport comes close to being cool, and children listen.

Speaking in a serious yet humorous voice that grabbed the sort of attention any PE teacher would envy, Baulch took one group through the mechanics of a relay race. Holding a baton in the air and facing a sea of entranced faces, he said: "Take the baton with your left hand and pass it to your right. Come on, now you try." Pairs of energetic children bounded up for a turn to impress and, after a little

shuffling and running into the wrong lane, all batons were passed successfully. Baulch smiled over with a big grin.

"That was good, but you must be aware of what is happening all around you; there is a lot of barging going on," he told them. "At the Commonwealth Games, another athlete ran into me, and I fell over." The youngsters joined in his laughs.

Keeping an eye on their partners, the second and third attempts at passing the baton went more smoothly and to finish the day all were lined up for 4 x 100 metres relay heats. After eight hours of coaching, they still ran their races to win.

"It does not matter that these are not especially talented kids," Baulch said. "If just one of them goes on to do a track event, we will have

accomplished something. I remember someone famous coming to my school and it was such an inspiration. It is good to put something back."

The programme has been geared to raising the profile of track and field. Athletic meeting attendances in Britain are falling and the sport is desper-

ate to regenerate interest. A 1995 British Athletics Federation document on how the sport should progress into the next century made only a brief reference to schoolchildren's athletics.

The TSB Team will next year visit regions that the sport does not normally reach, in-

cluding the South West and Northern Ireland, and host a few development days working with local coaches to find new talent. A similar initiative, in which Sally Gunnell toured the country teaching hurdles, has produced at least one international junior athlete.

Not that the 4 x 400 metres relay team is short on num-

bers at present. Gold medals at the world championships in Tokyo in 1991 ensured revived interest in the race among sprinters and, according to the national coach, the under-23 relay team is one of the strongest in Europe.

A few years ago, a relay split of 45 seconds was enough to qualify for the senior team.

Today, it is 44 seconds and the race is more and more about the sprint.

Baulch and Thomas want to win gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Further success could make an increasingly tough discipline even more competitive. For a chance to stand on the Olympic podium, British youngsters had better start running.

shelves and in the following categories:

• Sprints — 100m, 200m and 400m. Middle distance — 800m and 1,500m. Long-distance — 5,000m, 10,000m and marathons. Throw — shot, discus, hammer and javelin. Horizontal jumps — long jump and triple jump. Vertical jumps — high jump and pole vault.

RELAY FACTS

• The earliest time recorded for the 4 x 400 yards relay was 3min 34.2sec in 1893.

• The first officially recorded time for the 4 x 400 metres relay was 3min 47.2sec in 1911.

• The United States men's team broke the three-minute

barrier for the first time in 1966 in 2min 59.6sec.

• All subsequent records have been broken by the United States.

• The first British women's record — 3min 37.6sec — was in 1969.

• The average speed for 4 x 400 metres relay runners is now 19mph, achieved by five British athletes.

• The 4 x 400 metres relay team with their silver medals at the Olympic Games in Atlanta

On the right track: Jamie Baulch and Iwan Thomas

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THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

Court of Appeal

Law Report October 28 1996

Anomaly in law on mortgage frauds

*Regina v Graham (H. K.)**Regina v Kansal**Regina v Ali (Sujid)**Regina v Marsh**Regina v Graham (G. A.)**Regina v Price**Regina v Bramich*

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill,

Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice

Blease and Mr Justice Crosswell

Judgment October 25]

A glaring anomaly in the criminal law relating to dishonesty and mortgage frauds exposed by the House of Lords in *R v Preddy* (*The Times* July 11; [1996] 3 WLR 255) resulted in the quashing of convictions of seven appellants and the substitution of verdicts in alternative offences in the cases of four of them.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment allowed the appeals of Mrs Hemamali Kristina Graham, a solicitor, of attempting to obtain property by deception; Mr Rupe Lal Kansal, on five counts of obtaining sums of money by deception; and of Mr Sejjid Pasha Ali of attempting to steal a credit of £1,000,000 belonging to a bank. In each of those cases, the court determined that the conviction could not be regarded as safe that no substitution of an alternative offence had any basis and that ordering of a retrial was not appropriate.

In each of the appeals of Terence Colin Marsh, Garry Allan Graham, Paul Graham Price and David Bramich, who were involved in different motor vehicle businesses, and were convicted on various counts of obtaining or attempting to obtain property by deception, the court quashed their convictions, held that there could be no question of substitution where an attempt had been charged but where a cheque in fact had been obtained the allegations in the particular counts impliedly included allegations of an offence contrary to section 20(2) of the Theft Act 1968 and convictions under section 20(2) were substituted.

Mr Ivan Krolik for H. K. Graham; Mr Andrew Radcliffe for the Crown.

Mr Ivan Krolik for Kansal; Mr William Coker, QC, for the Crown; Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, and Miss Rosanna Tomwood-Smart, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Al; Miss Jane Sullivan for the Crown.

Mr Richard Lissack, QC, who

did not appear below and Mr James Counsell, assigned by the Registrar of Appeals, for Marsh, G. A., Graham, Price and Bramich; Mr Philip Mori, QC and Mr Tom Leeper for the Crown.

Mr Bruce Houlder, QC and Mr David Perry, for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the applications and appeals had been listed and heard together because they raised a number of common questions prompted by the *Preddy* decision, which was concerned with section 15(1) of the 1968 Act.

In recent years those who dishonestly made false representations to lending institutions and thereby induced those institutions to make loans which they would not otherwise have made had been prosecuted under section 15(1).

Many mortgage lenders had been victims of such misrepresentations, and in such cases the offence had become known as mortgage fraud.

The Criminal Appeal Act 1995 replaced section 2(1) of the 1968 Act with a shorter and simpler provision: "Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Court of Appeal - (a) shall allow and appeal against conviction if they think that the conviction is unsafe; and (b) shall dismiss such an appeal in any other case."

The new provision was plainly intended to concentrate attention on one question: whether, in the light of any arguments raised or evidence adduced on appeal, the Court of Appeal consider a conviction unsafe.

If the court was satisfied, despite any misdirection of law or any irregularity in the conduct of the trial or any fresh evidence, that the conviction was safe the court would dismiss the appeal.

But it, for whatever reason, the court concluded that the appellant might, if duly indicted, have been rightly convicted of some other offence. Where the condition in section 20(1)(a) as it now stood was satisfied, the court had no discretion to exercise.

The Crown submitted that the amendment of section 2 had

affected no change in the law: the crucial question was whether a miscarriage of justice had occurred; and where the criminality of the defendant was clearly established the practice of the court had been and should be to hold that there had been no miscarriage merely because the offence had been misdescribed in the indictment.

His Lordship referred to *R v McHugh* ([1977] 64 Cr App R 122); *R v Moloney* ([1980] 72 Cr App R 11); *R v Ayres* ([1964] AC 447); *R v Pickford* ([1968] QB 208) and said that their Lordships would deplore resort to undue technicality.A conviction would not be regarded as unsafe because it was possible to point to some drafting or clerical error, or omission, or discrepancy, or departure from good or prescribed practice. *R v McVite* ([1960] 2 QB 483) had decided under the new law in the same way as under the old.

But if it was clear as a matter of law that the particulars of offence specified in the indictment could not, even if established, support a conviction of the offence of which the defendant was accused, a conviction of such offence had, in their Lordships' opinion, to be considered unsafe. If a defendant could not in law be guilty of the offence charged on the facts relied on no conviction of that offence could be other than unsafe.

The prosecution contended that if the court was otherwise minded to allow the appeals, it should instead exercise the power in section 3 of the 1968 Act to substitute verdicts of guilty of other offences so far as the defendant might already have paid before the quashing of the conviction. The offences for which a defendant might be ordered by the court to be retried were, however, strictly limited by section 7(2) of the 1968 Act.

As to the second, their Lordships' court had only the verdict of the jury on which to go. The fact that the jury did not have a proper direction as to offence B was a highly relevant consideration, as was the question whether there were reasonable grounds for concluding that the conduct of the defence would have been materially affected if the appellant had been charged with offence B.

The power in section 3 of the 1968 Act had usually been exercised in relation to offences of violence or public order offences by substituting a lesser offence for the offence charged, there being in such instances a clear hierarchy of offences at common law or by statute.

Their Lordships had been asked to consider other offences for one or more of which, it had been argued, convictions could be substituted in the present appeals if, contrary to the Crown's main contention, their Lordships considered the convictions, or some of them, unsafe. They were:

1 Theft.

2 Section 17 of the 1968 Act, relating, inter alia, to destruction of documents made for any accounting purpose and making use of any such document knowing it to be false. It was clear from *R v Moller* ([1978] 1 WLR 820) and *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1987)* ([1988] 1 WLR 342) that the effect of that section was not to be whittled down and their Lordships were not persuaded that knowledge of the purpose for which any record or document was made or required formed any part of the mens rea of the offence.

It was, nonetheless, clear that the section focused on the existence of an account or record or document made or required for an accounting purpose, and those were essential ingredients of the offence.

3 Evasion of liability by deception.

4 Procuring the execution of a valuable security.

on the circumstances: drive or not drive.

Justices could only find special reasons and exercise discretion in favour of a driver if they thought it a real possibility, rather than merely an off-chance, that he would have advised the defendant to drive.

The key question justices should ask themselves when assessing if special reasons existed and considering whether to exercise their discretion not to disqualify a drink driver was what a sober, reasonable and responsible friend of the defendant present at the time, but himself a non-driver and thus unable to help, had advised in the circumstances: drive or not drive.

Justices could only find special reasons and exercise discretion in favour of the driver if they thought it a real possibility rather than merely an off-chance that he would have advised the defendant to drive.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court was then allowing an appeal by the prosecution by case stated of a decision of Bromsgrove Justices on November 14, 1995 finding special reasons in respect of a charge of driving with excess alcohol against Michael Bristow and thus unable to help, had advised

in the present case, looking at

As to the first, it would be sufficient if, looking at the indictment, not the evidence, the allegation in the particular count in the indictment expressly or implicitly included an allegation of offence B.

A count charging offence A impliedly contained an allegation of offence B if the allegation in the particular count would ordinarily involve an allegation of offence B and on the facts of the particular case so.

As to the second, their Lordships' court had only the verdict of the jury on which to go. The fact that the jury did not have a proper direction as to offence B was a highly relevant consideration, as was the question whether there were reasonable grounds for concluding that the conduct of the defence would have been materially affected if the appellant had been charged with offence B.

The first condition was either satisfied or it was not. The second required an exercise of judgment and would involve consideration of the public interest and the legitimate interests of the defendant.

The public interest was generally served by the prosecution of those reasonably suspected on available evidence of serious conduct without callousness to or oppression of the defendant.

The legitimate interest of the defendant would often call for consideration of the time which had passed since the alleged offence, and any penalty the defendant might already have paid before the quashing of the conviction. The offences for which a defendant might be ordered by the court to be retried were, however, strictly limited by section 7(2) of the 1968 Act.

As to the prosecution's contention that the court should, if it found an existing conviction to be unsafe, exercise the power in section 3 of the 1968 Act to substitute verdicts of guilty of other offences in each of the appeals.

In the typical case where their Lordships' court was asked to exercise the power in section 3 of the alternative offence was a lesser offence, where there was a clear hierarchy of offences at common law or by statute, for example, manslaughter for murder, or affray for violent disorder.

The prosecution had put forward a number of candidate offences for substitution, the approach adopted by the various counsel for the prosecution had not always been consistent and, further, their Lordships had not been provided with a draft count in respect of any of the offences to be substituted to be candidates for substitution.

His Lordship concluded by voicing their Lordships' strong support for the plea made by Lord Goff of Chieveley in the closing sentence of his speech in *Preddy*.

All of the appellants had been convicted of dishonesty by juries and it would surprise and dismay any layman to learn that most of the convictions on the indictments could not be supported.

There could be no doubt that the appellants' conviction was a well-maintained van on quiet pedestrian free roads. However, it was the prospective rather than the actual state of the road which was important. Also the shorter distance could more readily be covered on foot.

Several alternatives were open to him, for example, telephoning the police, asking a relative to drive him or going on foot.

Accepting the test proposed, what would a friend have advised? The only sober advice possible was that he had far too much to drink and there were other solutions. If the justices had applied that reasoning they would inevitably have come to that view.

The appeal would be allowed.

Mr Glatt agreed.

Solicitors: Louis Glatt & Co, Mayfair for H. K. Graham and Kansal; Crown Prosecution Service, Hereford; Leon & Co, Solihull.

Testing whether special reasons exist

and giving him a two-year conditional discharge. The case was remitted to the justices.

Mr Graham Cliff for the prosecution; Mr David Secondo for Mr Bristow.

The key question justices should ask themselves when assessing if special reasons could be found in section 34(1) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

The basic principles in respect of that provision were well established in the authorities set out in *Whitall v Kirby* ([1946] 2 All ER 552); *Pugsley v Hunter* ([1973] 1 WLR 578); and *Taylor v Rajan* ([1974] QB 424).There was no reason to doubt that the justices had those principles in mind. The main authority was *Taylor v Rajan* and the important point made there was that the matter had to be considered objectively.

It seemed to his Lordship that the key question justices should ask themselves was what in a so-called emergency would a sober, reasonable and responsible friend of the defendant present at the time, but himself a non-driver and thus unable to help, had advised

in the circumstances: drive or not drive.

Justices could only find special reasons and exercise discretion in favour of a driver if they thought it a real possibility, rather than merely an off-chance, that he would have advised the defendant to drive.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court was then allowing an appeal by the prosecution by case stated of a decision of Bromsgrove Justices on November 14, 1995 finding special reasons in respect of a charge of driving with excess alcohol against Michael Bristow and thus unable to help, had advised

in the present case, looking at

the facts, Mr Bristow had drunk a good deal sufficient to put him over the limit. A court had to bear in mind the observations about exceeding the limit made in *Taylor v Rajan*.

Mr Bristow was proposing to drive only 500 yards in what the justices found was a well-maintained van on quiet pedestrian free roads. However, it was the prospective rather than the actual state of the road which was important. Also the shorter distance could more readily be covered on foot.

Several alternatives were open to him, for example, telephoning the police, asking a relative to drive him or going on foot.

Accepting the test proposed, what would a friend have advised?

The only sober advice possible was that he had far too much to drink and there were other solutions. If the justices had applied that reasoning they would inevitably have come to that view.

The appeal would be allowed.

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Scots Law Report October 28 1996 Court of Session

Construing disclosure letter on terms of contract involved

Edward Prentice and Another v Scottish Power plc

Before Lord Penrose

Judgment August 9

In construing a disclosure letter granted in connection with the signature of an agreement concerning the purchase of shares, it was essential to deal with the matter strictly in the terms of the contract involved.

While as a matter of practice, it appeared that disclosure was seen as a means of furnishing the scope of wide and unqualified warranties, whether it achieved that by amendment or variation of the warranty provisions or by waiver by the purchaser of a remedy for what would otherwise be breached or by some other principle or rule of contract law must depend on the terms of the contract in question.

Further, in relation to the withdrawal of the defenders from the contract, there was nothing either in general principle, or in the structure and language of the contract which pointed towards the implication of a provision that the defenders were bound to exercise their right to withdraw from the contract.

Lord Penrose, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held after answer subject to deletion of part of the pursuers' pleadings in an action by Edward Prentice and another for declaratory relief that Scottish Power plc were obliged to implement the terms of an options agreement between the parties, and for an order requiring implementation of that agreement.

Mr David Sellar for the pursuers said that the pursuers were registered holders of substantial blocks of shares in W Group. They sought declaratory relief that the defenders were obliged to implement an options agreement in terms of which the defenders had been granted options to purchase the shares and an order for implementation of that agreement.

Exercise of options was to be

effected by delivery of a simple written notice in prescribed form.

Service triggered a sequence of steps designed, in the first place to ascertain the option price. It appeared to his Lordship that the capital value of the equity was considered to be primarily a function of the profitability of certain contracts.

The options agreement contained certain personal and other warranties by the pursuers and provided for disclosure against warranty, within the period of 45 days following delivery of notice of exercise of the options.

By letters dated December 14, 1995, the defenders served notices of exercise of the options. On January 26, 1996, the pursuers' solicitors had sent to the defenders' solicitors a disclosure letter together with a volume containing certain disclosure documents and had indicated that additional documents would be disclosed.

On January 26, 1996, the pursuers' solicitors wrote indicating that "having reviewed the warranties [the pursuers] have decided to make disclosure in accordance with the terms of the options agreement."

As a matter of practice, it appeared to his Lordship, that in the ordinary course, disclosure was seen as a means of limiting the scope of what tended to be drafted as wide and unqualified warranties.

Whether it achieved that by amendment or variation, or by waiver by the purchaser of a remedy for what would otherwise be breached, or by some other principle or rule of contract law, depended on the terms of the contract in question.

In his Lordship's view, it could properly be that the pursuers' argument was qualified or qualifications of warranties. However, his Lordship rejected the argument that there had to be a single disclosure letter before there could be disclosure.

The second issue was whether it was an implied term of the contract that the defenders would act reasonably in the exercise of the right to withdraw, assuming that there were disclosures on which they were entitled to rely.

Counsel for the pursuers argued that the implication of a term of

qualification of the warranties was not mandatory, it was permissive. The contract merely stipulated for writing where the pursuers had resolved to do writing.

The defenders' right to terminate the contract if there were disclosures which the defender did not accept until delivery of such a letter of notice of termination of the contract was a precondition of withdrawal of notice of exercise of option rights, but disclosure in any form would not be considered to be disclosure.

There was a duty to make fair disclosure. On a correct view of the correspondence which had passed, the pursuers had made disclosure, which they had then tried to withdraw.

The result for which the pursuers had contended was absurd: they could communicate a wealth of information to the defender but rely on lack of form to contend that there had not been disclosure of information.

To the extent they did take advantage of the provision, disclosure required to be fair, but if they did not purport to make disclosure, fairness would be irrelevant. Fairness of disclosure was related to the content of what was disclosed, not the decision whether to make disclosure.

In his Lordship's opinion, it was clear that there required to be a disclosure letter if the pursuers were to implement their obligations covering at least some of those items which were required to be dealt with by that mechanism even where they might not properly be limitations or qualifications of warranties. However, his Lordship rejected the argument that there had to be a single disclosure letter before there could be disclosure.

The second issue was whether it was an implied term of the contract that the defenders would act reasonably in the exercise of the right to withdraw, assuming that there were disclosures on which they were entitled to rely.

As the Queen begins a state visit to Thailand, we report on an ancient country in transition

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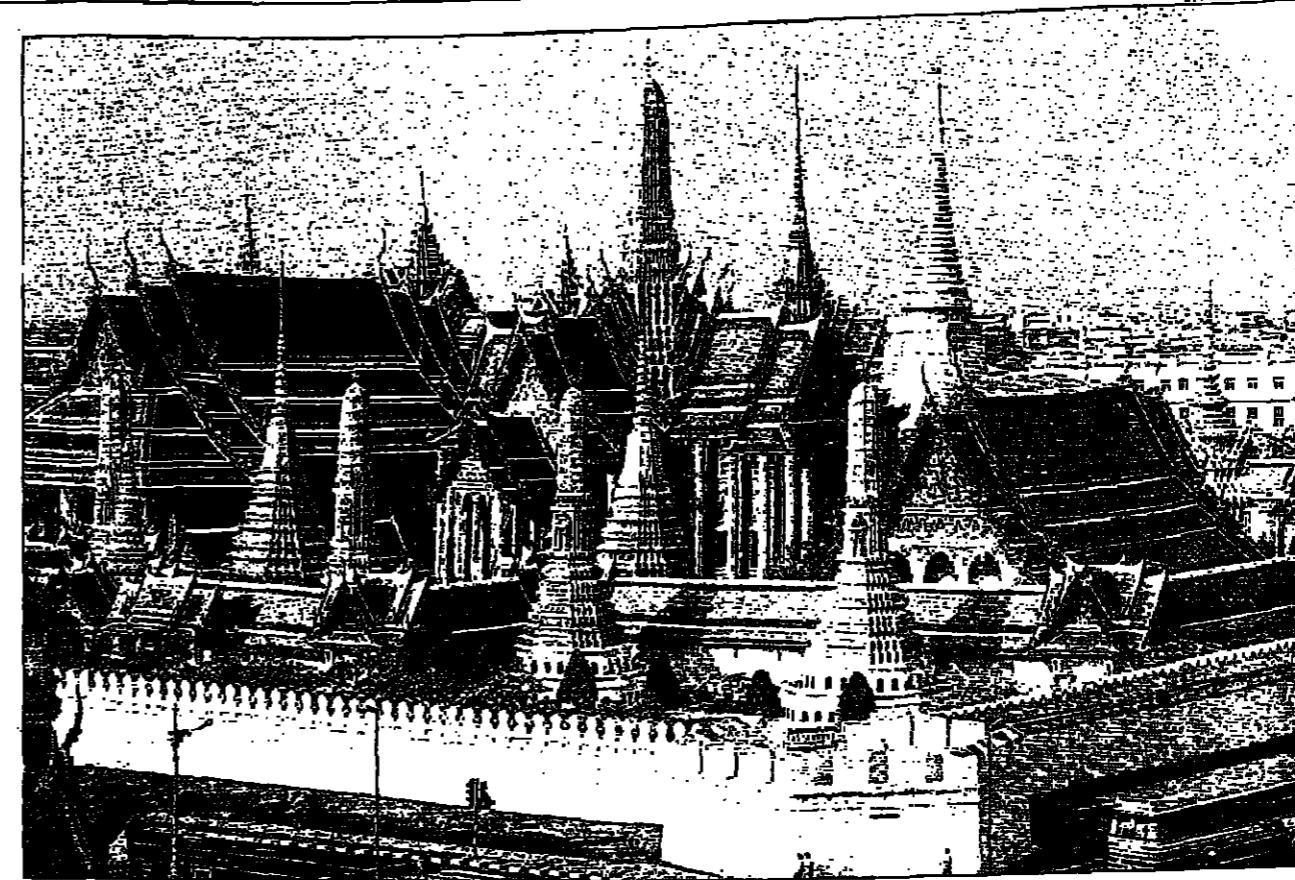
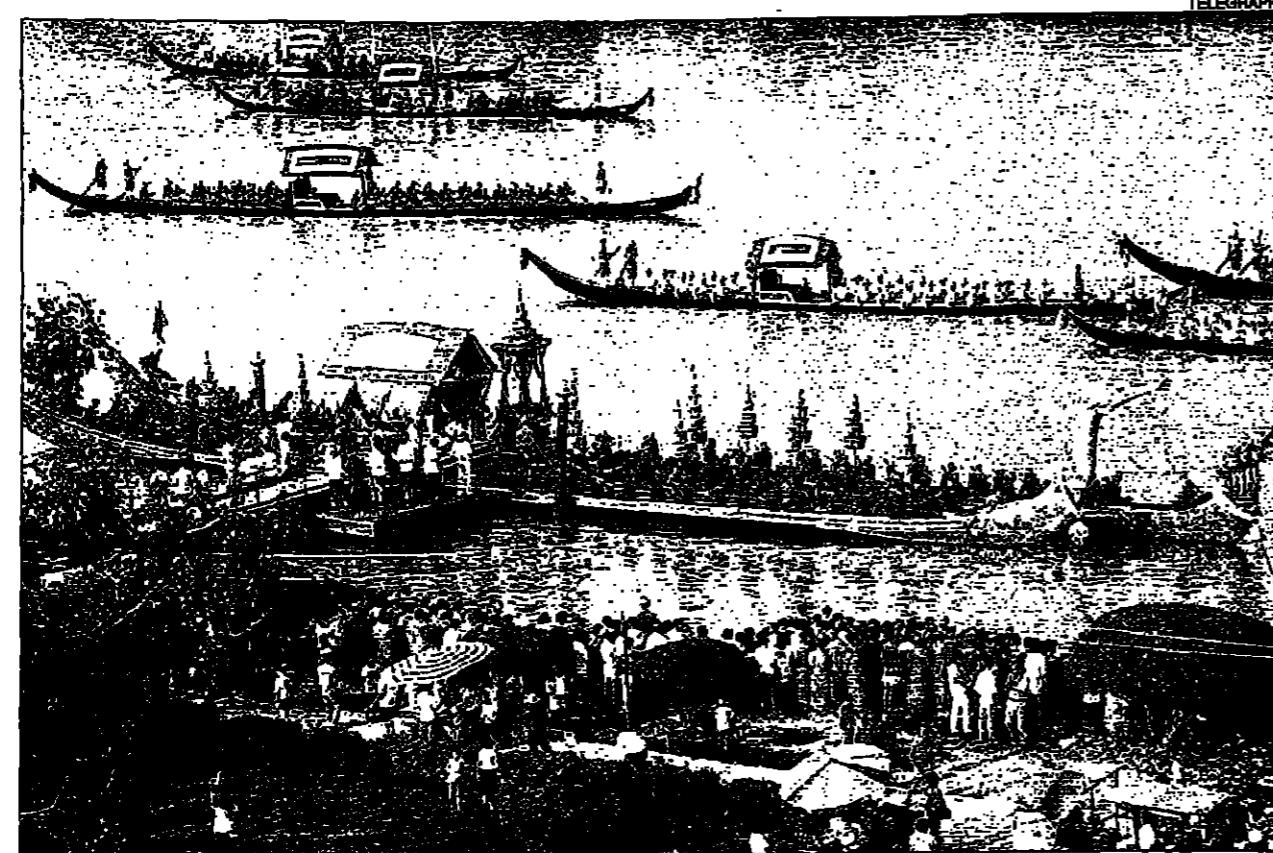
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A ceremony with traditional barges on the River Chao Phraya marks the golden jubilee of the King's reign, and the Grand Palace — Wat Phra Kaew — makes a dramatic contribution to the Bangkok skyline

King plays strong role at key point

This is a one-town country,"

says a senior government figure. Wage costs are now dictating higher point-of-sale prices and it is no longer possible to compete in the market at the same level as before.

China and India now offer products comparable to Thai textiles and footwear, with labour costs

support Thailand in its hour of need, but the message they have sent is a vital one: the Stock Exchange of Thailand is not the place to put your money until there is reform.

Just as the present king has been

vital to the economic and political direction of the country through ensuring stability, it was an earlier

king who set the stage for its industrial development. King Rama IV, who ruled from 1851 to 1868,

became one of the outstanding leaders of 19th-century Asia.

King Mongkut, as he

was known, opened the country to foreigners, built Bangkok's first paved road and im-

pressed everyone with his thirst for knowledge. Sadly it was that same

thirst that led to his death. Using an

array of instruments and charts he

predicted a total solar eclipse. In an

attempt to convince doubting fellow

royals and foreigners that he was

right, he took a large party down

the southern peninsula of Thailand

where he predicted that the eclipse

would be at its most complete.

He was completely correct in his

calculations but he contracted

malaria during the journey and

died on his return to Bangkok. It was his son, King Chulalongkorn whose reign carried Thailand into the new century. He brought modernity in the form of electric light and trains and dispatched his sons to study in the capitals of Europe. They returned with professional qualifications, progressive ideas and a sense of responsibility for moving the country forward. He was the first King to travel extensively in Asia.

Of a weekend visit to Windsor in 1907 he wrote: "It must be pleasant to be a British king, so long as one does not want to have too much of one's own way. One must let others do the work. They usually come and tell you about it before, and, if you have any ideas of your own you can state them. But if they persist in having their own way you must let it go, otherwise it may lead to a disastrous quarrel. This system works very well in England, and this King knows very well how to make it work."

Central to the Thai success story has been the transformation of the country's politics from a depressingly regular series of coups by army figures that reached their bloodiest nadir 20 years ago when students were killed at Thammasat University. Since then attempted coups d'état have become fewer and less violent.

The greater political stability has brought not only greater foreign investor confidence but boosted the vital tourism industry. The notion of a Western-style democracy started to take hold in the early 1980s with the Government under the leadership of the urbane former army commander General Prem Tinsulanonda. But the army is still there in the background. With so many attractive new destinations for foreign investment there is no scope for political mistakes if Thailand is to continue on its upward trajectory.

DAVID WATTS

There is an urgent need for a change of direction'

The rapid economic expansion of the 1980s has accelerated beyond most people's expectations in the 1990s, alongside a measure of democracy. Both are bringing potential problems for the next decades which will demand courageous changes of policy and a better quality of political life.

More than most countries in the region which achieved economic lift-off over the same period, Thailand is now at a political and economic turning point. The low-cost, low-wage economy has served the country well in bringing prosperity to the capital, but there is now an urgent need for a change of direction and for a better balance in the economy between the capital and the countryside.

David Watts profiles the first living Thai monarch to be awarded the title 'great'

Royal legacy of past 50 years

No modern monarch inspires such love and loyalty as does King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. Talk to a member of the nobility and he will speak of his admiration for the King and the monarch's devotion to the Thai people; even the most disaffected students find little to fault in their monarch and will reserve criticism for the government of the day. Such is the strength of the King's following.

Thai politicians of varying quality come and go but the people know he will always be there, ready to intervene when the venality and corruption of their politics become more than they can bear. "We don't care about the Government. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad — but it comes and goes," one fervent supporter of the monarch said. "The King is always there."

As a result, King Bhumibol is the first living Thai monarch to be awarded the title "great" by his people. The outstanding reforming Thai monarchs of the 19th and early 20th century have been accorded such acclaim, but always after their deaths.

The esteem stems from the very real contribution the King makes to the welfare of his country and its people. Drawing on his education in science, law and political science at Lausanne University, he never travels abroad but spends seven or eight months every year outside Bangkok. He travels tens of thousands of miles overseas



King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Thailand's longest-reigning monarch, whose image adorns the streets of Bangkok



"We don't care about the Government — it comes and goes. The King is always there"

effect of King Bhumibol on the communist insurgents who threatened the stability of rural areas in the 1970s and early 1980s, when militant communism was on the march in neighbouring Cambodia and Laos. With a large section of southern Thailand in the hands of the communists, the King intervened to try to induce them to surrender. The local army commander announced that *paseuk* — the "father warrior" — was on the way and they had better behave themselves. As soon as the King's helicopter came into view, they appeared from the jungle and laid down their assault rifles, satisfied that they would be treated fairly.

No one has forgotten the

tradition of Thai kings' having a bell at the palace door which any citizen is free to ring to make direct representations to the monarch. This custom is exemplified in the King's oft-quoted motto, which adorns one of the capital's main roads: "I will rule Siam with fairness and justice."

Yet, unlike his royal predecessors, he was not trained for the role of King, coming to it in 1946 at the age of 19 on the death of his elder brother.

Prince Ananda, who mysteriously died of a bullet wound. Four years later, he married the daughter of the then Thai ambassador to London, Momm Rajawongse Sirikit, with whom he has four children. The eldest, Princess Ubolratana, married an American and now lives in the United States; the others are Princess Mahas Chakri Sirindhorn, Princess Chulabhorn and Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn. That confidence stems from

A long-lasting friendship

Great Britain's relations with Thailand go back a long way. A century ago, Thailand was one of the few independent Asian kingdoms, and its 600-year monarchy won Britain's respect and admiration. Queen Victoria and Thailand's king corresponded and exchanged gifts, which will be on display during the Queen's visit.

As the ruler of Burma, Britain extended its power to the frontier of Siam, and the two countries respected each other's integrity and political stability. The friendship — though distant — was reinforced during the war when Siam, despite Japanese occupation, never gave up its struggle for freedom and indeed changed its name to Thailand, "land of the free", to underline this point.

Today British relations are closer, deeper and far more immediate. Last year about 270,000 British tourists visited the country. Thailand is one of Britain's most important markets in Asia, and trade has been growing rapidly over the past five years. English is the main foreign language.

The expansion of trade is a priority for both countries. Though Thailand is not a traditional market for British companies, trade and investment have increased greatly in recent years. British visible exports to Thailand for 1995 were £837 million, up 12 per cent on 1994. Britain was the second-largest European investor in Thailand.

An impressive number of senior

Thai politicians and ministers have visited Britain, including the then Finance Minister, Dr Surakiart Sathirathai, in January this year. Members of the Thai royal family are also regular visitors: Princess Sirindhorn came in July 1995 to receive an honorary degree at the University of Aberdeen.

She visited again in July to attend an audience with the Queen and a degree ceremony at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Princess Chulabhorn visited Britain in April to attend a chemistry conference at the University of Sussex.

Thailand's growing prosperity has led to a reduction in British bilateral aid. Remaining British projects are focused on training and scholarships for Thai government officials, particularly in the fields of developing technical and managerial skills, public health, the environment and good government. Britain provides Thailand with a generous programme of counter-narcotic assistance and military training. Government support is also given to British non-governmental organisations and volunteers working on projects for disabled people, AIDS victims and HIV carriers, and urban migrants.

Thai-British links will grow in almost all fields, as trade expands and two ancient monarchies learn a new respect for each other.

MICHAEL BINION
Diplomatic Editor

Tragic change at British embassy

As one sits beneath an antique *punka* — or ceiling fan — in the British embassy residence here, being served by white uniformed retainers, Bangkok's urban nightmare — just beyond the Gurkhas guarding the ornate gates — seems somehow remote. The windows frame an exotic garden of rich tropical orchids, palms and bamboo, lovingly tended by eight embassy gardeners, in one of Thailand's choicest parts.

JAMES HODGE, Britain's new ambassador to Thailand, an amiable though down-to-earth Scot who will be in attendance during the forthcoming state visit of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, finds himself here by a cruel twist of fate, as replacement for Christian Adams, the former ambassador to Thailand, who died of a heart attack in July.

Mr Hodge, who had been minister No 2 to Sir Len Appleyard, the ambassador to Peking, for a short while, departed for London with his wife Frances, where he had a rapid round of briefings on his Thai posting, followed by a quickly-arranged meeting with the Queen at Balmoral. Though both the Prince Philip and the Prince of Wales were wearing kilts during the audience, Mr Hodge was without his Gordon Highland dress; it was still on its way from Peking.

Relations with Britain have been filled with mutual admiration since King Chulalongkorn visited Britain in 1897. Yet, unlike his royal predecessors, he was not trained for the role of King, coming to it in 1946 at the age of 19 on the death of his elder brother.

Prince Ananda, who mysteriously died of a bullet wound. Four years later, he married the daughter of the then Thai ambassador to London, Momm Rajawongse Sirikit, with whom he has four children. The eldest, Princess Ubolratana, married an American and now lives in the United States; the others are Princess Mahas Chakri Sirindhorn, Princess Chulabhorn and Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn. That confidence stems from



Hodge new ambassador
James Hodge,
our new man
in Bangkok

their statue of an imperious-looking Queen Victoria peering out on traffic jams in Phloenchit Road and an overhead railway that is being built. She is busy helping to co-ordinate arrangements for a state dinner seating 70 of the cream of Thai society at which Queen Elizabeth will act as host to the Thai king and queen. Fortunately, the embassy has an excellent though homely chef (dessert a specialty), and bread-and-butter pudding with cream is now Mr Hodge's own special favourite.

When he has a rare moment free, our man in Bangkok has been sipping under a *punka* (there is also air-conditioning), reading John le Carré's latest novel, although the residence, with its undertones of more genteel times in Asia, evokes more the memory of Somerset Maugham.

The British community in Bangkok is enraged at reports that the Foreign Office may sell off part of these spacious grounds at vast profit, probably for another shopping mall. The embassy, however, says all options are open on this rare green oasis in the heart of a polluted capital, where the British have held sway since 1932.

Mr Hodge is also ambassador to neighbouring Laos and will soon present his credentials in Vientiane. There is certainly not to be a British royal visit there: the former communist regime's one-party government, still in power, put the King and Queen of Laos in a labour camp in the mid-1970s and they died there of malaria and neglect.

JAMES PRINGLE

THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

The traditional Thai way of life is being eroded as the economic boom fosters western consumerism

Culture shock of the new

The building of Bangkok's second international airport has been delayed because the Government rejected the original design of the main terminal as being "not Thai enough". The American architects are now reshaping it with hints of graceful classic temples and palaces. That people love western products and a western way of life but want those things to have a tinge of Thai style.

They seem to be fighting a losing battle judging by the skylines of Bangkok and the provincial cities, where concrete and glass towers clash unhappily with gleaming temples, palm trees and old wooden houses.

Thai culture, once based on an agrarian society, is now being changed by industrialisation and consumerism. These are a threat to the Thais' interest in their own arts and traditions, which have lost their mass appeal. It is noteworthy that the Thai Cultural Centre in Bangkok was designed and built by Japan.

There is concern that the influence of Buddhism, the national religion, is in decline. Scholars identify a split in the religion between the pure form preached by the Lord Buddha and a version that identifies itself more closely with the state and the monarchy and contains elements of animism, Hinduism and superstition.

Sukal Sivarak, a renowned Buddhist scholar, deplores the enthusiasm with which the monastic order has embraced consumerism. "As Thai people grow richer," he says, "they donate more and more money to the temples. They want to be sure that after reincarnation they will be safe and comfortable in their future lives. One temple I know of gets \$200,000 (about £119,200) a day. That makes the monks greedy for luxuries and leads to violations of their vows to avoid alcohol, women and so forth."

This situation has prompted calls for a reassessment of the role of the monk, but for the moment Buddhism still exerts great influence. Fewer young men follow the

NOT SO long ago, in a country where 95 per cent of people are Buddhist, every Thai man, for four months of his life, shaved his head, put on saffron robes, took up a begging bowl and led a simple, celibate existence, in a kind of rite of passage, joining 200,000 lifelong monks in thousands of temples. James Pringle writes.

Thai women responded by never touching them, thus avoiding the temptations of the flesh. Men and women consulted monks about personal problems, and sought predictions or exorcisms.

But as Thailand becomes more orientated towards making money, the four-month period has been reduced to two weeks.

On the streets of Bangkok near temples, or *wats*, one still sees the early-morning ritual of monks begging for rice, as prescribed in Buddhist doctrine.

Every Thai home still has a spirit



Elephants in downtown Bangkok, a not-untypical hazard in a city where some people are still adjusting to the modern world

tradition of entering the monkhood for brief or longer periods, but many families still hold to it as an important part of their culture. Ordination is particularly important for a man's mother, because as a woman she cannot gain merit by taking holy orders herself. And it is still thought that a young man is not fully mature unless he has been a monk before marriage and without that experience he is less attractive as a potential husband.

Mass migration to jobs in the cities has obliterated the popular culture of the villages and the spiritual beliefs and customs that controlled sexual morality are disappearing. Men and women away from parental influence now marry and divorce perhaps even more readily than in the West.

Much popular culture has direct links to the cycle of rice cultivation, but in many communities there is now only rice-growing family, so dances, dramas, festivals inspired by the seasons are disappearing. The monkey theatre, where roles are played by trained monkeys, and *lakay*, knockabout shows featuring stand-up comedians, are giving way to pop singers, films,

beauty contests and kick-boxing. By far the most popular of all entertainment is boxing and a consequence is that Thailand's first Olympic gold medal was won this year by a boxer.

Thai women, even in rural villages, have given up the ankle-length sarong for short skirts, trousers and shorts. Even 15 years ago Thai men wore the "king's shirt", high to the neck, in the office and formal occasions, but now a western suit and tie are obligatory.

Visiting westerners may be surprised at the formality of dress expected by Thais. Do-

ing business may also produce culture clashes. Over-familiarity, the slap on the back or hand on the shoulder, will not be welcomed, nor will blunt talk. Before making a deal, Thais look for a compromise even if one is unwarranted.

But when they relax over a drink these days, it is likely to be French red wine, which is considered smart and good for the health. Further down the social scale, beer is taking over from the traditional tipple of spirits distilled from rice and molasses.

The fast-food menu, of hamburger and french fries took a long time to catch on, but is

now booming. Milk is imported in increasing quantities and potato production is a new industry. It is not surprising that doctors say the average young Thai is much fatter than his parents.

The old cuisine is disappearing so fast that newspapers publish guides to where it can be found. Restaurants refuse to spend the time making the old dishes. There are complaints, too, that Thai rice, among the best in the world, is no longer cooked and served with care.

But many fine dishes are still available and not all are fired up with chilli. There are

City of exotica, elephants and road jams

One of the more unusual sights of bustling Bangkok is that of an elephant in a traffic jam. Thailand's tragic deforestation by greedy developers and a ban on logging in Cambodia have brought 40 or 50 "unemployed" elephants and their mahouts from northeast Thailand to Bangkok to earn money from tourists, who like to photograph them, and locals, who walk under their bellies for good luck.

From time to time, an elephant will be hit by a truck, with devastating results for the elephant and the truck. Police have tried fining the *mahouts*, but to no avail.

Thais, after all, have a soft spot for animals, and the city is host to tens of thousands of flea-ridden *soi* (lane) dogs, homeless mongrels, which are allowed to live because it is not Buddhist practice to kill them, even though 158 people died from rabies last year.

Short-time visitors to Bangkok (population eight million), once a languid city of tree-lined canals but now a nightmare of unplanned development, often complain that the capital is "undrivable". The traffic jams are daunting. However, as I found during a three-year stay before moving to Peking, living here is more pleasant than visiting.

This city of Buddhism and sexual exotica, known in Thai as the "city of angels" appears to be a vast building site, with overhead expressways and monorails going up, and the noise, heat, floods (at the end of the monsoon) and pollution are daunting. There is little civic sense, and many businessmen seem to go for profit at any cost.

Condominiums have been over-built; there is a glut and many stand empty. A subway is due to open in 2002, which may relieve some congestion. But 600 new cars come on the road every day, and the average traffic speed is 5mph. "You have to run just to stand still," said one resident.

Many solutions have been tried: people ride at Sam to reach work, military bases are to be moved out of the city and school and bank hours are staggered — all to no avail.

Portable toilets — one make is named E-Z-Pee — are often a must for cross-city car trips, as are car phones and faxes. For the brave, there are fast but dangerous motorcycle taxis at every corner.

One senior European diplomat, about to attend a reception with his wife at which the Thai King would be present, found his embassy limousine caught in a jam. Pedestrians were treated to the sight of the normally dignified tuxedo-clad envoy and his wife, also in evening dress, clinging to the back of two motorbike taxis. They made it in time.

But for Thais, it is worse.

Many working-class people

have to sit up to five hours a day on unairconditioned buses to get to and from work, and the strain tells.

Up to 50 per cent of Bangkok's 5,000 traffic policemen are off work at least once a year with respiratory problems from the lead-filled air.

"It seems," said one long-term foreign resident, "that no one can come up with a workable solution."

But traditional Thailand is still here, as is much of the charm and easy good manners of most Thais. In Bangkok, even on a crowded bus, there is little body contact because Thais give each other space.

However, most observers say there is no fundamental crisis. "Thais will cling to Buddhism in the stress of modern life and a rapidly changing society," one observer said. "But there will be modifications, in keeping with the changing times."

JAMES PRINGLE

Buddhist faith tested by the gods of the West

control or screening process." Phra Dharma Pidok, one of Thailand's leading religious scholars, said recently: "Ordination has lost its meaning."

The ministry of education, which oversees religious affairs, suggested lie-detector tests to monitor the sincerity of monks' pledges of celibacy, and proposed monks be issued with identification.

Monks complain that the pleasures of the flesh are too evident. Advertisements for lingerie are everywhere. "Most Thais are now money-orientated," said a long-term foreign resident. "It doesn't square with traditional values."

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Tycoon to get city moving

Neil Kelly makes inroads on Bangkok's traffic chaos

Money still buys power

James Pringle on a country slowly gaining political maturity



Banharn Silpa-archa, the outgoing Prime Minister

In recent months Thailand has faced the kind of political turmoil that in past times would have made the Army leave its barracks and the tanks roll. After all, since Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932, there have been 17 military coups, the most recent in 1995.

It is a measure of how much Thailand has since changed that few expect military intervention, even though the country is in the hands of a lame-duck government and the grip of an election campaign for polling on November 17. "It's a sign of a slow but growing political maturity," says one foreign diplomat. "But there is still a long way to go."

In 1992, street demonstrations against the military government were brutally suppressed, with scores of deaths. Since then, the Armed Forces seem to have lost their appetite for intervention, one envoy notes. However, Banharn Silpa-archa, the outgoing Prime Minister, dissolved Parliament last month instead of resigning as head of a hopelessly discredited six-party coalition as he had promised.

Mr Banharn, who will be in attendance as caretaker Prime Minister during the Queen's visit, is likely to be trounced in the election. His own Thai Nation Party is already much diminished through defections to other parties. "Party-hopping," says one analyst, "is the name of the game."

In his 14 months in power, Mr Banharn, a 64-year-old provincial politician and businessman of the old school, endured constant criticism for alleged corruption and incompetence. He was also accused of plagiarism in his college thesis and falsifying his father's ethnic background to show that he was not born in China — which would have barred him from being Prime Minister.

During his term in office, export growth fell from 24 per cent to 3.8 per cent, and the growth rate slipped from 8.6 per cent last year to a projected 7 per cent in 1996, which would still be a very respectable figure in most countries. However, investor confidence also fell.

Mr Banharn, who is said to have referred to the Queen as "Queen Elizabeth Taylor" (he denies it, but Bangkokites believe he would have said it), insisted he was the victim of the urban elite and that he remains popular in the provinces, which may be true given the "money politics" and unabashed vote-buying there.

The field now seems to be open to three candidates. The former Prime Minister, Chuan Leekpai, head of the Democrats, who is said to be indecisive but ran a relatively clean administration during his 32 months in office ending last year — a term that made him Thailand's longest-serving Prime Minister. Diplomats say the Democrats may gain from public distaste over the discredited fallen coalition.

Mr Chuan is up against Chavalit Yongchayudh, 64, a former general and defence minister who is head of the New Aspiration Party (NAP). He retired as head of the Armed Forces in 1990, but has never made a secret of his political ambitions. His party was the second largest in the coalition and he is seen by some as too partial to old-style, money-based politics. "What are politicians for, if not to help business?" he asked recently.

A third candidate is Chatichai Choonhaven, another former Prime Minister, who was ousted in the last military coup in 1991. He heads the Chart Patriya party. But the NAP and the Democ-

rats are ahead, with the NAP in the lead.

Chavalit has seized the moral low ground and bought the greater number of politicians so he should win," one senior Western envoy says.

"However, his government is likely to be plagued by the same problems as Banharn's and is unlikely to last long. The Democrats, who have the moral high ground, will probably have to bide their time."

With the economy in a downturn, some commentators believe it will depend on which economic "dream team" the voters prefer.

Thailand still has to shake off the old politics of political patronage and pay-offs, vote-buying and cronyism, though a parliamentary committee has been working on constitutional reform proposals that will eventually address the issue.

"I'm sorry to have to say it," said one foreign envoy, "but this election could come down to how much money is spent by the parties. Then there are unpredictable factors. The owner of a big factory may tell his workers how to vote, and in others it could be the village headman." A bought vote can cost as little as 120 Baht (about £3) in the provinces, political observers say.

The campaign is nothing if not entertaining, a lively free-for-all with one candidate even accusing another of having AIDS. Whatever else is wrong with the Thai political process Thais enjoy perhaps the most free press in the region. A cartoonist recently portrayed politicians as pigs at a trough.

Rural population seeks a share of rapid economic growth

PISIT, an unskilled worker from Thailand's central region, thought a while before answering the question, Neil Kelly writes. "I'd say the only way my life has got better is now I can afford to buy Krong Thip (a local cigarette). Before, I had to roll my own."

He and his family have electricity but little else in their leaky wooden shack, which has no piped water, drainage or sewerage. The surrounding country is fertile, but they live on the poverty line and in emergencies can call only on relatives and friends as poor as themselves.

They are among the millions of rural people who have missed out on the fruits of the spectacular economic growth that has enriched local and foreign business.

Less than ten years ago, Pisit was employed full-time by a rice farmer. His wife also worked in the fields and kept the water buffaloes from straying. Now the animals have gone to the slaughterhouse and have been replaced by "iron buffaloes", as tractors are called. Small rice farmers cannot compete with mass-production methods, so they have been encouraged to grow fruit, vegetables, flowers and cashew nuts, often with disastrous results. Consequently, farmers' debts are at a record high.

All this put an end to Pisit's job. Now he works on construction sites, cleaning buildings and collecting money on the beach from deck-chair occupants. His wife buys and

foreign companies to set up branch workshops in places where there are no jobs. A dozen or more now operate in deprived areas and are keeping youngsters from fleeing to the cities.

In these small rural communities you can see the workings of the dubious political system and particularly the client-patron syndrome. It is easy to spot the local businessmen who are financing politicians and why. Government officials working illegally for political parties are also easily identified, as are the men and women distributing cash to buy votes. But outsiders cannot penetrate the conspiracy of silence surrounding these activities, and anyone who tries could be in danger.

Attempts at resuscitation are desultory and rarely successful. One small-scale scheme was initiated by Mechai Virahaidhya, a well-known social reformer, who has persuaded some Thai and

foreign companies to set up branch workshops in places where there are no jobs. A dozen or more now operate in deprived areas and are keeping youngsters from fleeing to the cities.

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Budget for a holiday without hassle

Colour and drama attract eight million tourists a year

million tourists each year who crave the Eastern mix of colour and drama.

When top tour operator Kuoni reported recently on longhaul destinations, Thailand was rated No 1. The country gets more repeat visitors than any other in Asia.

It's not all gaiety-bar business, either. Travel consultant Terry O'Brien, based in Bangkok, says: "Critics forget that

holiday buyers not only want a longhaul trip to be spectacular, but it has to come in on budget. Thailand has kept prices within reach for millions.

"There's lots to see, from islands that starred in James Bond films to hill tribes in mountain villages. The beaches are stunning, and there are things in the markets here to buy which you'd actually want

to keep when you get home especially fabrics."

Mr O'Brien says: "Lots of other countries make a big pitch about their people — how friendly they are. In the case of Thailand, that just isn't true. Visitors here like the Thai people."

The mix of beach holidays and up-country safaris has taken off: visitors are going in increasing numbers to the

mountain fringe of the country. They go to Chiang

44 DESIGN IN BUSINESS

John Young introduces a two-page report on Design in Business Week, which is launched today, by looking at Britain's use of its skills

Why we waste too many good ideas

Andrew Summers, the chief executive of the Design Council, dislikes talking about the past. Not his own, but the council's past when its showroom in the Haymarket was a cross between Carnaby Street and a souvenir emporium full of trendy breakfast china, desktop gadgets and the sort of thing no one buys.

For him, design is an integral part of our lives, from the architecture of the buildings in which we live and work to the simplest implements we use. Most importantly, so far as he is concerned, it is the key to the revival of Britain's manufacturing industry in an increasingly competitive world.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, with the economy slipping into recession, the Government turned a beady eye on quangos and questioned whether they were efficiently performing the functions for which they were set up. It concluded that the Design Council's practical, advisory role had become blurred and unfocused, and that it should be replaced by a much smaller, leaner organisation.

Mr Summers, 50, was recruited at the beginning of last year to take charge of a council that had retained its name but shed more than four-fifths of its staff (although some former staff continue on contract as consultants). He says that, despite a reduced budget, far more is spent on practical projects than on administration, and that therefore industry is getting a better deal.

It is something of a truism that Britons are unmatched at new ideas and inventions but all too happy to leave other countries to put them into practice. When they do make things themselves, a brilliant concept is too often ruined by shoddy execution.

The paradox is made all the more bewildering by the fact that Britain leads the world in the training of designers and the provision of design services. There are more than 3,000 design consultancies in Britain, employing between 40,000 and 50,000 designers, and seven of the eight largest international consultancies are British. Yet British industry continues to squander this great asset because it has largely failed to recognise its importance.

"A working definition of

design is turning ideas into objects which will delight their users," Mr Summers says. "A good design not only satisfies a customer's needs but brings him pleasure. That applies to everything from cups to computer screens, from a hospital waiting-room to the seating in an airliner."

Mr Summers is far from alone in lamenting Britain's failure to capitalise on its innovation skills. Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman of ICI and scourge of industrial complacency, says Britain trains more industrial designers than the rest of Europe put together. The tragedy is that we use so few to make our own products," he says. "I've been frustrated over a great many years at our inability to harness our design skills."

If British firms will not do so, then others will. According to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, the heads of design at Peugeot, Citroen, BMW and Mazda all trained at the Royal College of Art. Research by MITI, the Japanese Government organisa-

tion, found that in the past 50 years 40 per cent of the world's most important discoveries came from Britain. Yet in 1993, British firms filed only 3,23 patents for every 10,000 of population compared with 3,71 ten years earlier. In the same period the average for members of the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development (OECD) rose from 4,38 to 5,61.

"A new product will cost a bit in the early stages, but if it is successful all the costs of the initial design will be swallowed up in the huge long-term benefits. You can't go on cutting costs for ever; the way to improve margins is through higher added value."

He is concerned that the recent wave of cost-cutting in British industry may damage its ability to compete. "In the past few years firms have been intent on survival, downsizing, cutting costs and re-engineering. Many have lost sight of the need for product innovation, and in that sense they are not in good shape."

With Britain apparently emerging from recession more quickly than most of its competitors, this could be the last chance to make up for lost time and squandered opportunities. In partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry, the council plans to launch the Millennium Project Challenge to generate 2,000 new "world-class" products for display at the Millennium exhibition in Greenwich. If the opportunity is missed, there may not be another.



Andrew Summers urges investment

Real way of walking

PROSTHETICS

A RADICAL new approach, using the latest microprocessor technology to designing prosthetic limbs has been developed by the prosthetics manufacturer Chas A. Blatchford and Sons.

For the first time the Intelligent Prosthesis Plus allows above-knee amputees to experience natural walking at a range of speeds. A sensor detects changes in walking speed via changes of knee-joint angle. The information is relayed to a microprocessor which controls a pneumatic cylinder. The compressed air helps to correctly extend the limb to ensure proper heel strike.

The company, based in Basingstoke, has been pioneering technical innovations in prosthetic limbs for more than a century, including the first modular-assembly prosthesis in 1983.

Its Endolite system was also the first to use carbon fibre reinforced plastic, as well as modern thermoplastics. It has developed a total injection moulded prosthesis for use by aid agencies.

Blatchford, with 326 staff, believes that its use of design and innovation has been a crucial element in its success, and has helped its customers in the most effective way possible.



Todd Schaffhauser is a track and field athlete

can be partly attributed to conflict between designers and accountants, most of which is unnecessary. "There is no way in which good design should be associated with something impossibly expensive," he insists. "If it is, it's not good design. Design is an investment, not a cost."

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The success of James Dyson and his revolutionary Dual Cyclone vacuum cleaner is possibly the most inspiring British business story of the late 20th century.

Knocked back at every turn by multinational giants who ridiculed his invention, plagiarised by international business villains, plagued by debt as he sought to pursue his vision in a country reluctant to fund research and development, he worked alone for 14 years, from the concept of the machine to its appearance in the shops, clinging relentlessly to his dream.

It was while studying at the Royal College of Art in the 1960s that he began to move towards more practical applications of his eye for form and structure. Frustrated by a system that marks some men out for art and others for

science, Dyson taught himself structural engineering, learnt about plastics and fibreglass, and was inspired by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, transfigured by the way that perfect form can be generated by fidelity to function and technology.

While still a student he designed a revolutionary landing craft, the Sea Truck, and then took responsibility for selling it around the world, where he first encountered the problems of convincing consumers to espouse new ideas.

Then came the now ubiquitous Ballbarrow, with its distinctive orange and green colouring and pneumatic plastic ball instead of a wheel. Within three years it had a 70 per cent share of the market, but having assigned the patent to his employers — a mistake he was never to repeat — he did not make the fortune he should have.

That was to come later. In 1979 he discovered a way of filtering the dust in a vacuum cleaner by means of a rapidly spinning funnel of air that

could separate dirt as small as the particles of cigarette smoke by centrifugal force. He was able to create a cleaner that maintained 100 per cent efficiency without excreting pouches of waste.

But the blinkered suits at Hoover, Electrolux and the rest were not interested. Planning to go into business alone, Mr Dyson struggled to find licensees to raise the money, and when the giant American corporation Amway reneged on a licence agreement and went into production themselves he was forced to sue.

On the point of bankruptcy, and suffering resultant ill health, he was saved only by selling the design to Japan for £1 million. This cash, together with damages awarded when the courts found in his favour, allowed him to set up in production. In his first year, 1993, he turned over £3 million. Estimates for 1996 are running at more than £70 million. Offers to buy him out do not interest him, his vacuum cleaner is now the biggest seller in Britain despite its price (£199), and he still has 100 per cent control.

His success has been based on the conviction that "the only way to have long-term business success is to create a product based on new technology, that looks fantastic, so that the public can instantly see it is the best." Launching the "Doing a Dyson" exhibition at the Design Museum last week, Sir Terence Conran described him as one of a new breed that is at once a designer, engineer, accountant and advertising man. This is the future of business, and in the next century it is to be hoped that British industry will be "doing a Dyson".

GILES COREN



James Dyson and his revolutionary Dyson Dual Cyclone vacuum cleaner, which is the biggest seller in Britain

How one man inspires others to 'do a Dyson'

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Designing for safety

ENGINEERING

WHEN bad design can injure, or worse, the role of design engineers plays a crucial part in ensuring problems can be overcome.

JCB Special Products, part of the JCB Bamford Excavators Group, delayed its entry into the "skid-steer" compact loaders market — wheeled machines for use in tight spaces where conventional loaders cannot operate — because it wanted to overcome health and safety concerns.

The traditional compact loaders have twin operating arms that force the driver to enter the cab through the front. Also, once in the cab the driver has to turn round 180 degrees in a confined

space, with the risk of accidentally knocking the controls. To counter this and achieve good performance, JCB's design engineers decided that the entrance to the cab would have to be from the side, meaning only one operating arm could be used. It took three years to develop a machine that used one arm because of the impact on the vehicle's structure and performance.

The resulting JCB Robot included other design-safety features and reflects the corporate culture of developing technology in a safe and secure way.

JCB's revolutionary new one-armed compact loader



Design

Design takes an informed and challenging look at how design affects people in business, education and the public sector.

Design seeks out and analyses the best examples and case studies of applied design. Recent contributors include Tom Peters, John Major, Tony Blair, Sir Christopher Lewington and Robert Heller.

Design, the journal of the Design Council.

Available on subscription from ETP Publishing 01245 491717.

Design
Council

Whose
truly inspirational?

Design
Council

مكتبة
الإمام
الرازي

Drawing customers into the equation

John Young on how the Design Council aims to make British products more competitive

Customers are harder to satisfy, harder to find, have more options to choose from and more companies chasing them. Prices are getting lower, product lifecycles shorter; the world is a more competitive place. With that stark message the Design Council introduces its first ever "Design in Business Week", which begins today.

Intended to become an annual event, the programme includes seminars, exhibitions and workshops across the country. These will be complemented by a design show at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London and will conclude with the presentation of the council's awards at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Julie Fitzsimmons, of the council, who is responsible for the arrangements, says the main object is to bring home to the business community the importance of design in achieving competitiveness. The main emphasis will be on manufacturing industry and product development.

"One of the main messages is that you have to begin by discussing what the customer wants," she says. "If you don't do that, you can't build it into the finished product. That may seem simple enough, but you'd be surprised how many firms don't recognise it."

Traditionally, market research has been too market-oriented, with too little attention paid to product research; too much emphasis on selling and not enough on what is being sold. Customers are being offered not what they want but what marketing departments think they want.

The Design Council's Julie Fitzsimmons

The programme has been devised in collaboration with BT, IBM, the Design Museum, the Marketing Council, British Airways and the University of Wales, among others. The council is particularly pleased at the participation of bodies such as the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors; a sign, it hopes, that the nation's business leaders are at last beginning to get the message.



Sky-high boardroom: executives can enjoy a meeting in first-class comfort on board a British Airways jet

A weight off high-fliers' backs

David Churchill on the seats that help you at work, rest and play

British Airways had a problem: improvements to its business-class cabin meant that many executive travellers were unwilling to pay twice the fare for the added comfort of flying first class.

Rival airlines decided to abandon first class in favour of an improved business cabin. But BA recognised that as a leading global carrier it needed to retain the prestige of a premium cabin. It also recognised that a radical approach to front-cabin design was needed if it was to win back passengers to first-class.

BA's own research indicated that the market for first class was predominately male and business-orientated travellers, almost always travelling alone and requiring

privacy and space in which to work, along with the opportunity to catch some proper sleep on overnight flights.

It turned to design consultants Design Acumen to help it find an innovative approach which incorporated a reclining seat and a six-foot-long horizontal bed to ensure a proper night's sleep. Studies showed people tended to doze rather than experience normal sleep in traditional reclining airline seats.

The initial decision taken was to change the cabin configuration, reducing the number of first-class seats from 18 to 14 to provide the

extra space required. The new seats were arranged in what the designers describe as a "herringbone" pattern, with five single seats along each wall of the cabin with four in the middle.

All the seats are screened from each other to give effective privacy, although those in the middle have a retractable divider between them which means couples or colleagues can still sit side by side if they wish.

The seat design incorporated the novel concept of having the seat and leg-rest based on a trolley which, controlled by four electric motors, slides

down from conventional seat configuration into a flat bed. Two designers were seconded almost full-time to seat manufacturers L.A. Rumbold while the design was engineered.

The design solution included the provision of a small visitor seat at the foot-end of the chair to enable a colleague to sit and chat or even eat with the incumbent passenger. A stylish sideboard containing television monitor and in-flight entertainment system was also built into the space adjacent to the seat.

BA says the new-look first-class cabin — which it describes simply as First — has been so successful that its previously underoccupied premium cabin is now operating at virtually full capacity on most routes.

Design Business Week

For more information about Design in Business Week events, contact the hotline on 071-839 6288.

The man in the mask

POLLUTION



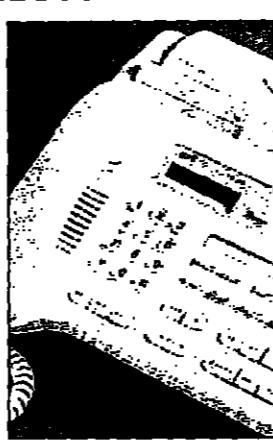
Harry Cole in one of his new masks for cyclists

STREETWISE cyclists anxious to maintain their fashion credibility while still protecting themselves from traffic fumes have had cause to thank entrepreneur Harry Cole for his anti-pollution masks.

Mr Cole, 36, is a graduate of the Central St Martin's School of Art. He decided that many cyclists did not bother with face masks because they looked so boring, and in 1990 he formed a company called Respro making Star Wars-style masks in colourful patterns. He has since developed a range of fashionable products, including cycle clothing and a visor that fits all cycle helmets.

A phone that does it all

TECHNOLOGY



BT's new phone, fax and answering machine

BT discovered the hard way that being market leader in providing telephones did not automatically translate into market dominance in other areas, particularly in supplying fax machines.

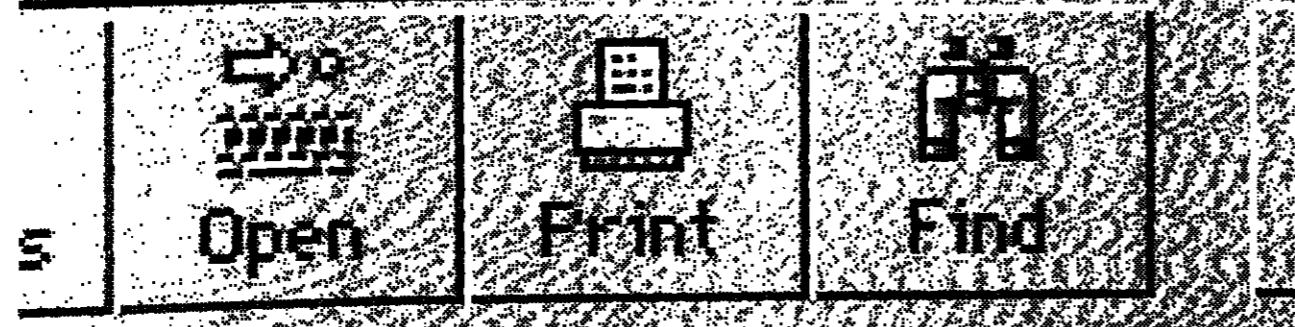
So it decided on a designed solution to break into the home/office, domestic and small-business market. Random, the design company, was asked to come up with a phone/fax/answering machine (DF200 series) that appealed to first-time buyers with little experience of using a fax machine. It came up with a telephone with easy-to-use fax and answering machine.

John McGrath, the BT producer group manager,

says the £55,000 spent on design has paid off. "We recouped our investment three months after launch, instead of the anticipated nine months."

BT's share of the fax market has risen from 14 per cent to 40 per cent six months after the launch.

e: Design Council: The De



<http://www.design-council.org.uk/>

The Design Council website is a fast, accessible design information resource, which features a wealth of advice, information and services.

It also has hypertext links to a wide range of design-related sites in business, education, media and government and is rapidly becoming the UK's definitive design network.

COMPANIES

CLARE STEWART

Worries over second-best Sainsbury

J SAINSBURY: The group has lost its title as Britain's leading retailer and gone down in the estimation of many investors in the past year. It seems unlikely that Wednesday's half-year figures are going to do much to repair its battered reputation. NatWest Securities, the broker, has downgraded its full-year profit forecasts for 1996/97 and reduced its recommendation for the shares from a "hold" to "reduce". It says there is little hard evidence to indicate any management success in developing a market strategy that stands out from the competition. It also worried about the company's ageing customer base. A drop in pre-tax profits from £451 million to £396 million is expected this time round, with earnings sliding 2.2p to 14p. The setback is down mainly to one-off items totalling £15 million relating to start-up costs involved with the Reward loyalty card and a further £8 million of "mad cow" disease write-offs. Petrol retailing has improved significantly in recent weeks with the help of a higher crude price. But during the period under review margins were squeezed and a loss of £20 million is expected, compared with a profit for the corresponding period of £8 million.

BAT INDUSTRIES: The group will take time off from litigation over tobacco-related diseases to focus on third-quarter figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits should show further improvement, with brokers looking for £1.96 billion compared with £1.8 billion for the

corresponding period. Earnings per share should also be up from 35p to 38.3p. The figures are likely to confirm evidence of a slowdown in tobacco growth. Tobacco margins in the US are expected to see a 0.5 per cent decline in margins.

THAMES WATER: The company kicks off the water utilities' interim dividend reporting season tomorrow. Much of the focus of attention will be on future dividend policy. Dividend growth is expected to average 8 per cent a year through to the turn of the century. Pre-tax profits this time round are likely to have grown 12 per cent to £185 million, although the growth in earnings should be less spectacular at 6 per cent. At present, the market is looking for a 1p increase in the payout to 10.5p.

SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING: Third-quarter figures on Thursday will show a decline in spite of the benefit of a rising oil price during the period. Brokers say that any benefit from this area will be offset by a deterioration in margins in downstream and chemicals because of the rising cost of raw materials. Net income for the first nine months is likely to be about £1.13 billion compared with £1.16 billion last year. Underlying upstream earnings are expected to have grown by 85 per cent to £635 million.

PILKINGTON: The economic decline in Europe and cheap imports in Australia will make a

sizable dent in the half-year figures on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at £73 million, down from £104 million at the same time last year. Earnings a share will also be down from 4p to 4p although the dividend should be pegged at 1.7p net. The group's Australian operations are likely to have run almost at a loss after an influx of glass from China.

BOOTS: A strong performance by its own-brand lines should help to offset any weakness with the sales mix elsewhere when it unveils half-year figures on Thursday. It should enable sales to climb 7 per cent and operating profits by about 10 per cent. At the pre-tax level, profits should be 9 per cent higher at £235 million with earnings a share just 3 per cent higher at 16.4p. Other retail parts of the operation are also expected to have benefited from the upturn in consumer confidence with a modest improvement in manufacturing profits. The only black spot is likely to be international healthcare which, it is feared, will have slipped into the red.

BODY SHOP: The City will be looking for reassurance about the state of play in the US when half-year figures are unveiled on Thursday. Pre-tax profits in the first six months are expected to be up from £9.1 million to £11.2 million. Brokers will be looking for signs of recovery in the US under the new management team in order to establish further long-term earnings growth.



David Sainsbury will be working on a recipe to put Sainsbury back into the number one spot

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Cathay Int'l, Grampian TV, Shanghai Fund Company, Finlease, GR Holdings, Morgan Grenfell Equity, Murray Enterprise, Overseas Investment Trust, Phyllopharm, UK Estates. Economic statistics: UK September major banking groups lending.

TOMORROW

Interims: City of Oxford Investment Trust, Crompton Greaves, Northumbrian Fire Foods, Thames Water. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK monetary policy meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England, US Q3 advance GDP, UK Q3 major banking groups lending.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BAT Industries, Bettaware, Havelock Europa, J Sainsbury. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK monetary policy meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England, US Q3 advance GDP, US Fed beige book.

THURSDAY

Interims: Body Shop Int'l, Boots, Kleinwort Emerging, Pilkington, Royal Dutch/Shell, Finlays, Air London. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: US September personal income/spending.

FRIDAY

Interims: Burtonwood Brewery. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: US September factory orders, US October leading indicators, US October National Association of Purchasing Managers survey, US October non-farm payrolls.

SUNDAY-TIPS

Independent on Sunday: Buy Gerrard Group. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Hill Hire, Midland Independent Newspapers, Trocadero; Take Profits Barclays Bank. The Sunday Times: Buy Sunlife Speakman, Allied Textiles. Observer: Buy Upton Investment.

leaven

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Interest rate set to be held

No change in interest rates is expected from Wednesday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Acceleration in third-quarter economic growth, reported on Friday, virtually ruled out another rate cut, but no one is predicting a rate rise either. Consumer credit figures for September are due tomorrow. The consensus of market estimates compiled by MMS International is for a total of £850 million, against £897 million. This would accord with other data suggesting that, although demand for credit

remains buoyant, it has eased from levels of recent months.

On Friday, the purchasing managers' survey offers the first snapshot of economic activity in October; the survey has recently pointed to renewed growth in manufacturing, and the trend is expected to be shown to have continued.

With little important data due in the UK, markets may well focus on America, particularly with the November 5 presidential election and the November 13 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee near. The first key US indicator is October consumer confidence, out tomorrow.

Wednesday sees preliminary

data for third-quarter US gross domestic product. Growth was 4.7 per cent in the second quarter, but the economy is expected to have slowed considerably from then. US September new home sales are also out on Wednesday.

Friday sees the important report on US employment in October. The markets will watch non-farm payrolls after September's 40,000 fall in non-farm jobs. Most economists expect a big rise in jobs in October. Also due on Friday is the US purchasing managers' survey, expected to show a modest slowdown in manufacturing.

JANET BUSH

Near-12% of bosses are serial failures

By KEITH RODGERS

ALMOST 12 per cent of company directors are "serial failures" with a history of at least two business failures behind them.

According to research published today by CCN Group, the information services company, nearly one million company directors, representing 36.7 per cent of its database, have been involved with at least one failure, and 307,000 with multiple collapses. At the top end of the scale, 3,229 men and 455 women have more than ten failures under their belts.

CCN called for "crisper definition" of what constitutes unscrupulous conduct and fraudulent trading and a review of the whole issue of corporate stewardship. David Coates, managing director of CCN Business Information, said that despite the increased number of prosecutions, the problem is growing as more people become

aware of how easy it is to form a limited company, extract credit, let it fold and "bury the business quietly".

The group points out that association with one failed company would rarely be seen as a sign of dishonesty or incompetence. However, with the number of "serial failures" topping 300,000 and only 2,855 directors disqualified, the picture is "extremely worrying". It advises individuals and businesses to check the backgrounds of people running companies, particularly in new operations with no track record.

According to the survey, 45 per cent of all serial failures live in London and the South East. Of directors in Wales, 6.9 per cent and 6.4 per cent in the North West have County Court judgements against them, making them the poorest payers of debt, against a UK average of 5 per cent.

RAO Gazprom, the gas company, today becomes the first Russian company to be listed on the London Stock Exchange. It has raised \$373 million from issuing American depository shares, the highest amount ever struck from a depository receipt on the exchange.

Fit for AIM
LA Leisure, the fitness club operator, is hoping to raise £3.5 million when it joins the Alternative Investment Market next month. The company runs five clubs across London and hopes to open 15 more over the next three years.

London's loss
London is losing out to other financial centres through failure to reform its business rates, according to a report from Lamber Smith Hampton, the consultant surveyors. It concludes that the advantage created by London's office-building boom in the 1980s has been squandered by artificially high rates.

Oxfex bid
Karpad, which produces computerised touchpads, is joining the Oxfex market in a bid to raise £300,000. Its devices are used by 100 London restaurants for order-taking, bills and payments.

Trade pact
South Korea and the EU will become most favoured trading nations, in a five-year treaty signed today.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6038 (+0.0120)
German mark
2.4439 (-0.0121)
Exchange index
89.2 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
2,334.1 (-31.1)
FTSE 100
4,022.4 (-30.7)
New York Dow Jones
6,007.02 (-87.21)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
20,739.97 (-872.33)

STOCK MARKET

Tiny slice of the action for Tradepoint

By FRASER NELSON

TRADEPOINT, the AIM-listed rival to the London Stock Exchange, carved only a 0.029 per cent of the market in its first full year of trading. Its anonymous, order-matching trading system processed 63.1 million shares in the 12 months to September, compared with the 237 billion that went through the LSE in the same period.

The company must increase its share by 50 times to reach the 2 per cent share it needs to break even. Michael Waller-Bridge, Tradepoint's chief executive, remains confident the company is on course to achieve this by the end of next year. Tradepoint will open its trading to overseas companies by the end of this year.

Karpad, which produces computerised touchpads, is joining the Oxfex market in a bid to raise £300,000. Its devices are used by 100 London restaurants for order-taking, bills and payments.

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SEMINAR DATE: 19 November (PM) SN22

SEMINAR TITLE: Secure Document Management with Lotus Notes. Using Lotus Notes to provide a secure management archive and workflow solution for internal, incoming and outgoing correspondence and documentation.

VENUE: Swallow Hotel, Glasgow

SEMINAR DATE: 20 November (AM) DC23

SEMINAR TITLE: Managing Correspondence and Tasks Using Lotus Notes. Improving accessibility of team documents on the network and the benefits of sharing and managing team tasks with Project Managers through Lotus Notes.

VENUE: The Quality Friendly Hotel, Cardiff

SEMINAR DATE: 21 November (AM) EN24

SEMINAR TITLE: Lotus Notes in the Media. Based on Lotus Notes, Oxygen's distributed database applications cover the critical processes generic to all media companies from planning and creating to resourcing and selling the product.

VENUE: Gardens Hotel, Manchester

SEMINAR DATE: 21 November (AM) BT25

SEMINAR TITLE: Automation of Insurance Brokerage Through Lotus Notes. Improving Inter-Enterprise Communication through BT Network for Lotus Notes and Simtel's experience in complete process consultancy and Notes development in the Insurance Brokerage Industry.

VENUE: Gimlet Group Ltd, Bristol

SEMINAR DATE: 22 November (AM) MT26

SEMINAR TITLE: Groupware Solutions for Executive Search & Selection. Describing the development and deployment of a Lotus Notes solution by Microtrans for High Technology, the search and selection specialists.

VENUE: Lotus Park, Staines

SEMINAR DATE: 26 November (PM) CA27

SEMINAR TITLE: Lotus Notes and ISO Standards Based Document Management System. Market-leading applications for Quality, Health & Safety and Environmental Impact Management plus integration with other Lotus Notes based business process software.

VENUE: IBM Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne & Wear

SEMINAR DATE: 27 November (AM) IC28

SEMINAR TITLE: Re-engineering Sales & Marketing. Considering Sales Automation? Get closer to customers by working smarter rather than just harder. A demonstration on how to establish your own High Performance Customer Management process.

VENUE: Lotus Park, Staines

SEMINAR DATE: 28 November (AM) TF29

SEMINAR TITLE: Managing the Market - Tools for Building Business Success. Based on their own Sets & Marketing Notes System (InfoTrack) InfoSys have developed Finntech's Marketing system for worldwide rollout.

VENUE: Marsh Farm Hotel, Swindon, Wiltshire

SEMINAR DATE: 3 December (AM) DK30

SEMINAR TITLE: Business Across the Internet. The Internet, hype or a useful business tool? This seminar addresses the link between Distius' Lotus Notes Account Management system and the Internet.

VENUE: Lotus Development, Cheadle, Cheshire

SEMINAR DATE: 3 December (PM) LW31

SEMINAR TITLE: Lotus Notes and the Mobile Manager. Demonstrating a system used remotely by managers to progress projects and authorise workflow stages electronically avoiding time to market being affected by managers' availability.

VENUE: Chesham, Buckinghamshire

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Lotus
Working Together

Attack on options at PizzaExpress

BY CARL MORTISHED

PIZZAEXPRESS has come under fire for failing to comply with corporate governance guidelines. The chairman of the restaurant group's remuneration committee is benefiting from a newly created share incentive scheme and has recently cashed in share options worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Matthew Allen, the only non-executive director of PizzaExpress, chairs the remuneration committee, which decides executive pay. According to the Greenbury code of best practice, committee members should have no financial interest in matters it decides.

However, Mr Allen, who is a nephew of Peter Boizot, the company's founder and former chairman, recently exercised an option over 200,000 ordinary shares. In July, he was issued 300,000 deferred convertible shares under an incentive scheme introduced in May. Each deferred share, issued for payment of 5p, is convertible into an ordinary share at a price based on a formula and on condition that PizzaExpress achieves earnings growth of 5 per cent above inflation in each of the next two years.

Under the formula, and assuming 3 per cent inflation, the

deferred shares might be convertible at 433p. However, directors who hold the deferred shares are already showing a theoretical profit because the share prices have risen from 377p in July, to 519p on Friday.

Manifest, the corporate governance consultancy, has issued a report on PizzaExpress ahead of the company's annual meeting on Thursday. The

report criticises the company for failing to comply with the Cadbury and Greenbury codes and questions the independence of Mr Allen.

Manifest also raises the concern that the deferred share scheme risks diluting other shareholdings. The company already has an executive share option scheme in place.

Luke Johnson, chairman of PizzaExpress, confirmed that it was not complying with the corporate governance codes and said that shares outstanding under the executive share option scheme had always exceeded the 5 per cent limit recommended by the Association of British Insurers. However, Mr Johnson rejected the criticism and suggested that the Cadbury code was contrary to small companies' needs. He said that he wanted his non-executive director to have a financial interest in the group. "Business is not about protecting yourself from danger," he said. "It is about taking risks."

The ABI said it believed that non-executive directors should not take part in share incentive schemes. "The role of non-executives is to restrain the executives," a spokesman said.

Mr Johnson said the shares' 12-fold rise since flotation in 1993 justified a little dilution.



Johnson: defended scheme

Dorling to review top contracts

BY JASON NISSE

DORLING Kindersley, the publishing and multimedia group, is to review the contracts of its senior executives, notably Peter Kindersley, its chairman and chief executive, after criticism of its corporate governance procedures.

The company has come under fire for having three-year rolling contracts for its directors and for the fact that the four-person remuneration committee, which is supposed to be staffed by independent non-executives, includes Mr Kindersley and his wife, Juliet.

Manifest, the corporate governance consultancy, has said that the make-up of the committee breaches the recommendations of the reports of both the Cadbury and Greenbury committees.

Rod Hare, the group's legal director, said the structure of the committee was appropriate because Mr Kindersley, who was paid £260,000 last year, was the founder and largest shareholder and Mrs Kindersley was an independent person who did not vote as Peter's wife.

Hare said that the committee would be reviewing Mr Kindersley's three-year contract and had hired Towers Perrin, the remuneration consultancy, to advise it. "Peter is recommending it is reduced to one year," said Mr Hare.

The ABI said it believed that non-executive directors should not take part in share incentive schemes. "The role of non-executives is to restrain the executives," a spokesman said.

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THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

4

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY



party on the theme of "What Everyone Wants". The costumes were many and various but, in the end, Angus decided that he could not attend. "Finding a costume to convey the idea of 'a bonus' defeated me," he admits nobly.

Name of the game

CLAMPING down on ladies who advertise their personal services in telephone boxes is not an easy task and neither is catching those who use the distinctive 07000 prefix. How on earth do you cold-call people to ask them whether they are prostitutes? Pity then the Personal Number Company who tracked down the owner of 07000 HOOKER who eventually turned out to be a burly City figure with a passion for rugby.

MORAG PRESTON

Harding's other side

MATTHEW HARDING'S devotion to Chelsea FC was the stuff of legend. Less well known was his affection for another football team — Hassocks FC. Mr Harding was one of the biggest fans of the Sussex League club and donated £18,000 towards floodlights needed for its promotion. His sons, who live in the neighbouring village of Ditchling, played in the club's junior sides, and this year, he gave his name to a trophy for under-16s at the club. The Matthew Harding Cup.

IN LIGHT of Ian Lang's decision to block proposed bids for South West Water by Wessex Water and Severn Trent Water, customers will be interested to note that the latter offered by far the better deal. That is, of course, on account of the cost of the MMC's reports: the same number of pages for £18.20 compared with £19.85.

Bonus idea

HURRAH for Robin Angus, a director at NatWest Securities and author of the Investment Trust Annual. The fervent Scottish Nationalist is one of the first to come clean and tell us exactly what it is that he's after. In his writings, Angus explains that he was recently invited to a fancy dress

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

| 1996 | | Mid cap (million) | | Price pence | | Wdy % | | Yld % | | P/E | | 1996 | | Mid cap (million) | | Price pence | | Wdy % | | Yld % | | P/E | |
|------|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----|-------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-----------------------|-----|-------------------|------|-------------|------|-------|-------|--------------|-----------------|------|------|
| High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High | High | Low | High | Low | High |
| 150½ | 132 | 14.70 | AFA Systems | 147½ | — | 3 | 4.6 | 10.0 | 183 | 132½ | 2.94 | First Inter | 14½ | — | 1 | — | 28.3 | 75½ | 63 | 1.46 | Norham | 75½ | 37.7 |
| 135½ | 109 | 19.30 | AMCO Corp | 134½ | + 1 | — | — | — | 92½ | 90½ | 24.90 | Fitness First | 90½ | — | — | — | — | 76 | 52½ | 4.07 | Ntnl Petrol | 35½ | + 3 |
| 113½ | 67 | 17.30 | AND Int'l Pub | 153½ | — | — | — | — | 255 | 188 | 6.53 | Florimex | 255 | + 20 | 1.3 | — | 28.3 | 8 | 7½ | 11.12 | Ntnl Petrol Wts | 7½ | — |
| 87½ | 18 | 4.65 | Abrasiv Recruit | 84½ | — | — | — | — | 343 | 253 | 7.51 | Floral | 252 | + 7½ | 0.4 | 13.3 | 116 | 110½ | 44.90 | Nursing Home | 113 | + 5 | |
| 15 | 14½ | 14 | Abrasiv Recruit P/P | 14½ | — | — | — | — | 45 | 45 | 20.65 | FRHT Holdings | 45 | — | — | — | — | 174 | 65½ | 12.0 | Old English Pub | 105½ | — |
| 13 | 12 | 12 | Academy of Management | 12½ | — | — | — | — | 100 | 100 | 12.0 | Academy of Management | 100 | + 10 | 2.3 | — | — | 136 | 111½ | 12.0 | American | 12½ | + 3½ |
| 210 | 122 | 29.50 | Al Crust | 200 | — | 3.9 | 15.0 | — | 120 | 105 | 12.0 | Al Crust | 105 | + 20 | 2.3 | — | — | 123 | 111½ | 26.20 | Al Crust | 31 | — |
| 204 | 74 | 13.90 | African Gold | 134½ | — | — | — | — | 120 | 112 | 12.0 | African Gold | 112 | + 20 | 10.1 | — | — | 123 | 111½ | 26.20 | Al Crust | 31 | — |
| 65½ | 66 | 34.20 | Airtex | 75 | — | — | — | — | 23 | 16 | 5.74 | Airtex | 16 | — | — | — | — | 120 | 105 | 2.06 | Al Crust | 31 | — |
| 23½ | 13 | 8.99 | Albemarle & Bd | 23½ | — | — | — | — | 63 | 57 | 17.90 | Gall Thomson Env | 17½ | — | — | — | — | 120 | 105 | 2.06 | Al Crust | 31 | — |
| 58 | 32½ | 6.92 | Altyna | 74 | — | — | — | — | 13½ | 8½ | 37.10 | Bandit Hops | 12½ | — | — | — | — | 115 | 105 | 2.06 | Al Crust | 31 | — |
| 24 | 7 | 5.72 | Alpha Optron | 74 | — | — | — | — | 109½ | 77½ | 82½ | Alpha Optron | 77½ | + 5 | — | — | — | 115 | 105 | 2.06 | | | |

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WEEK AHEAD 47

Sainsbury feels the heat in store wars

BUSINESS

MONDAY OCTOBER 28 1996

CASH CALL 50

Howard Davies on funding hi-tech firms



BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

M&S to invade over-the-counter pharmaceuticals market

By JASON NISSE

MARKS & SPENCER is to challenge the likes of Boots and Lloyds Chemists in the new year, launching a range of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals bearing the famous St Michael brand name in a market estimated to be worth £1.2 billion a year.

The range is expected to include everything from paracetamol to vitamins and holistic health products and could be in shops as early as January on a trial

basis. However M&S will stop short of prescription drugs. The move, following Asda's attempts to start a price war in the market, may lead to cheaper medicines and health products.

M&S is working on plans in conjunction with Peter Black, the West Yorkshire-based company that has long been an M&S supplier and has built up a pharmaceutical manufacturing side. It is hoping to run a trial in a handful of larger M&S branches after Christmas with a view to bringing out the range through

most of its chain later in the year. Suppliers to M&S are reluctant to comment about anything to do with working for the retailing giant, as it is well known for taking stern action when suppliers talk about M&S business.

Accordingly Peter Black declined to talk about the launch. However a spokeswoman for M&S said: "As part of our ongoing process of improving the range of products offered to our customers, we are always looking at new areas to expand into."

The market for over-the-counter pharmaceuticals has become concentrated over recent years, with the consolidation of the pharmaceutical wholesaling business into the hands of two main players — UniChem and Gehe of Germany — and the growth of Lloyds the Chemist as a force to rival Boots on the retailing side, although Boots is said to have about 30 per cent of the market.

Gehe and UniChem are now ready to renew their £650 million battle to take over Lloyds, having been given the green light

after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the bids lodged by the groups. UniChem made a renewed offer only 20 minutes after being given the go-ahead to bid again.

The move by M&S may also provide the spur for a price war in the market for over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, where some products command a 90 per cent margin on prices.

The drug manufacturers are fighting attempts to have their price-fixing arrangements outlawed by the Restrictive

Practices Court. Ten days ago, John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, said that he wanted to break up the groups. UniChem made a renewed offer only 20 minutes after being given the go-ahead to bid again.

However the Proprietary Association of Great Britain, which includes leading manufacturers such as SmithKline Beecham, Warner Wellcome and Procter & Gamble, said it would fight Mr Bridgeman and take action against any company discounting branded pharmaceutical products.

CBI in firing line over investor rights

By FRASER NELSON

THIS Confederation of British Industry will set itself on a collision course with Britain's largest institutional investors this morning when calls for the debate over non-voting shares to be reopened.

In a report on the future of listed smaller companies, the CBI says that the greater use of two-tier share structures is essential to persuade private companies that they can float without losing control of their business. The move is sure to anger some of the UK's largest investment institutions and corporate governance organisations, who have long argued that non-voting shares are anachronistic and erode shareholder democracy.

Anne Simpson, a director of Pirc, the corporate governance watchdog, attacked the proposal as being out of touch with City culture. "This goes against all the recent trends in corporate governance at the moment," she said. "I find it very difficult to accept that there is a market for non-voting shares."

Jamie Borwick, chairman of the CBI's smaller quoted companies working group, said that the option had fallen into

disease through false impressions that it was no longer available.

He said: "Advisers are simply not presenting non-voting shares as a possibility to companies looking to float. There is most certainly demand for shares which don't carry voting rights, but are cheaper than the full price. The danger facing the British economy is that private companies are choosing not to grow their business via flotation through fear of losing control of it. I consider this a much greater menace than any opposition that may be caused through the issue of these shares."

The CBI's suggestion comes as part of a package of proposals centring around the creation of a new regulatory framework for smaller listed companies. Its key reform is the creation of a two-tier regulation system on the Stock Exchange, with a separate market segment for companies outside the FT-SE 350.

Companies under this should be able to write off their flotation costs against corporation tax, it argues, and their shares should be exempt from reinvestment relief on

capital gains tax. Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said that smaller companies were suffering under legislation designed for the stock market's multi-billion-pound firms in mind. He said, "The problems are mostly the result of smaller companies not having a strong enough voice. The CBI wants to give them that voice."

The Cadbury code on corporate governance comes repeatedly under fire in the CBI's document used as an example of legislation drawn up for the largest listed companies but applied throughout the market. It has resulted in "unnecessary layers of bureaucracy," the CBI argues, leading to "disproportionate and ineffective regulatory constraints".

The report also attacks the lack of private investors in the small companies, which it blames on more favourable treatment given to institutions. The current situation has, it says, created a "regime in which power and responsibility for investment decision-making tends to be removed from individuals and given to institutions".

Mr Borwick, who is also the chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, gave warning that, unless moves were taken to address the problem, private companies would look to list on overseas markets.

At present, there are over 2,000 companies listed on the full market, 85 per cent of which would be covered by the CBI's proposals.

Philip Valentine, client manager of Coutts & Co's new Canary Wharf office, which opens tomorrow, Herschel Post, chief executive of Coutts, the private bank owned by NatWest, said it hopes to attract high net worth individuals from the financial community at

the Docklands development, which is soon to be boosted by the arrival of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the investment banking arm of Barclays. The branch will be Coutts's 13th in London and is part of its expansion in the south of England.

French court threat to Eurotunnel job cuts

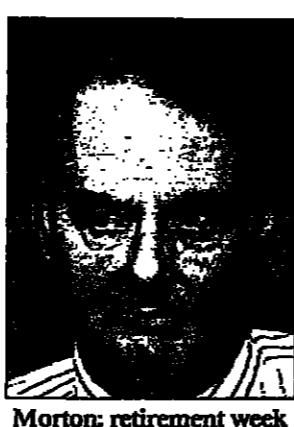
By KEITH RODGERS

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel Tunnel operator that is attempting to restructure its £9.1 billion of debt, has suffered a setback to its cost-cutting programme with trade unions in France and the UK rejecting its proposals to shed 657 jobs.

In a move that could lead to a court challenge in France, five French unions are to call in an external accountant to review Eurotunnel's books and come up with alternative cost-cutting measures.

Eurotunnel said last week that it would save £16 million by the end of next year by cutting its workforce to 2,829 — 306 jobs will be lost in the UK.

Eurotunnel said last week that it would save £16 million by the end of next year by cutting its workforce to 2,829 — 306 jobs will be lost in the UK.



The French unions also asked whether the company's real motive was to increase its value.

Eurotunnel's debt-for-equity restructuring proposals were unveiled earlier this month after a marathon round of talks with its principal bankers.

The deal is expected to be put to shareholders by next April.

The deal was steered through by Sir Alastair Morton, the combative co-chairman of Eurotunnel who retires this week after almost a decade of battling with banks and contractors to keep the Channel Tunnel project alive. He is being replaced by Robert Malpas, the former BP managing director who has been on the Eurotunnel board since 1987.

Bank wants small hi-tech firms helped

The Bank of England believes that many of Britain's small technology-based firms are hindered because of problems in raising finance, particularly at the start-up stage.

In a report published today, the Bank argues that more must be done to ensure these firms thrive. In America, it said, technology-based industrial development has come to a significant extent from the starting-up and growth of small high-technology firms.

Howard Davies, page 50

Cashing out

Investors in the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust are expected to opt overwhelmingly to cash out at an extraordinary general meeting today. Some 80 per cent of investors are expected to take a cash exit by transferring into the Kleinwort Benson Money Market Trust, with the remainder split between the new Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Trust and the M&G European and General Trust.

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TIMES 28/10

Outlet will be largest of its kind in Europe

Nike to join the Circus

By JASON NISSE

NIKE is planning to open a sportswear supermarket of up to 100,000 sq ft in Oxford Circus, sharing the world famous site with Top Shop and Top Man, part of the Burton Group.

The store will be the largest of its kind in Europe and could change the face of retailing on Oxford Street, Britain's busiest shopping area. Nike is expected to pay up to £3 million a year in rent to Burton for the first and

second floors of the site, the ground floor of which is devoted to menswear and which boasts a Top Shop in the basement.

The two floors generate a profit of £9 million a year for Burton. Architects are working on plans to transform the 100,000 sq ft of spare space at the site, which Burton hoped to convert from offices after buying the freehold for £94.5 million a year ago.

It is hoped to have rapid escalators to take customers from Regent Street and Ox-

ford Street to the Nike shop. A similar design is being used by Benetton, which has expanded its site at Oxford Circus to a multi-floor superstore.

Nike is one of the five brands which dominate the £500 million a year market for sports-related clothing and goods, the others being Adidas, Umbro, Puma and Reebok. Many young people now shop in sports outlets for their shoes and fashions rather than traditional shoe and clothes stores.

Williams Holdings is planning to raise £350 million by selling its building products arm, according to reports over the weekend. It is believed to be in discussions with three venture capital firms.

| ACROSS | |
|--|-------|
| 1 Man of all work (8) | 6 Peg |
| 5 Front of law (4) | 12 |
| 8 Enjoy other's discomfiture (5) | 13 |
| 9 Cajole (7) | 14 |
| 11 Ram's mate (3) | 15 |
| 12 Utter violent denunciations (9) | 16 |
| 13 Very dirty (6) | 17 |
| 15 Fowl: boozing weight (6) | 18 |
| 16 C S Lewis devil. Letters (9) | 19 |
| 19 Flat marshland (3) | 20 |
| 20 Rotted (7) | 21 |
| 21 Devastation; chaos (5) | 22 |
| 22 Unaccompanied piece (4) | 23 |
| 23 Deputising sucker (3-5) | |
| SOLUTION TO NO 924 | |
| 1 Damp squid 6 Peg 8 Anxious 9 Worse 10 Pots 11 Tree-line 12 Nelson 14 Closed 15 Mushroom 18 One's 20 Prize 21 Trailer 22 Peg 23 Swann's Way | |
| DOWN: | |
| 1 Deadpan 2 Mixed blessing 3 Soot 4 Unsure 5 Bow Bells 6 Parkinson's Law 7 Glibe 12 Dourness 15 Destroy 16 Portia 17 Mop up 19 Barn | |

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